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PRESS REPORTS

for

LATE 1954

and

1955

PRESS COMMENTS

DECEMBER 1954

Lewiston Daily Sun

December 3 1954

LEWISTON TO
HAVE 60,000

Survey of Androscoggin
Valley Sees Jump
in Population

Bates Professor Speaks on
Reports of Land and
Water Conditions

There is good reason for predicting that the population of Lewiston will be 60,000 persons by 1990, Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, head of Bates College chemistry department, told a New England regional meeting of the National Council for Stream Improvement yesterday at Boston.

Dr. Lawrance quoted from the New England-New York Inter-agency Committee Androscoggin report, one of 41 comprehensive reports on a similar number of river basins in New England and New York State. He used the report to illustrate the method of presentation and organization.

Among the important features of the Androscoggin report is the projection of probable population growth and the probable water requirements, he said.

AMPLE WATER

The investigators have concluded that there will probably be ample water for the foreseeable population and industrial growth in the Androscoggin valley, at least until the year 2000.

The report also contains an extensive survey of the water storage and power development possibilities and an intensive study of the economics involved. Each site is dealt with objectively, including probable effects on the wildlife of the region, he said.

For the Androscoggin, report considerable study was made of the benefits and disadvantages of reconstructing the dam at Errol, N.H., to levels higher than the existing structure. Among other sites investigated were Pulsifer Rips, Gilead, and Dixfield.

POLLUTION

The New England-New York Inter-Agency Committee was formed in 1950 by President Truman and consists of representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Power Commission and departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education and Welfare, Interior, Labor and Health, together with representatives of the governors of all the states involved.

Each "gold book" or report of the committee, contains a section on natural and man-made pollution. Evaluations were made of the municipal and industrial loads throughout the basin and their effects on water quality.

Three alternate plans were outlined in each river basin for improvement of water quality.

Using the Androscoggin River as an example, Dr. Lawrance stated that two of the plans would cost an estimated seven and a half million dollars and the third would cost 10 million dollars.

SULPHITE WASTE

Costs were based on the 1949 dollar and if municipal sewage collection and "in plant" costs are included the cost estimate would be more than doubled.

Expensive as it might be, carrying out of these plans would place most of the main stem of the Androscoggin River in Class C.

The present method of lagooning regulated discharge of sulphite waste appears to be the most practical and economically feasible method for use in the Androscoggin basin at this time, says the report. It also records that companies involved have fully complied with the conditions of the 1948 court decree.

Completion of the "gold book" reports will cost the taxpayers four million dollars but will make available for the first time under one cover a reasonable comprehensive survey of land and water resources and conditions in river basins of New England and New York, said Dr. Lawrance.

"The original objectives of the inter-agency Committee", said Dr. Lawrence, "included an examination of the water resources of the region to determine the feasibility of organizing an authority similar to TVA. This latter objective has now been abandoned. The committee is now nearing the end of a four-year study which will bring together a vast amount of information which was previously scattered and difficult to obtain."

Lewiston Daily Sun

December 11, 1954

MOST MAINE WATERWAYS

NEED "UPGRADING" SURVEY

FOR POLLUTION DISCLOSES

Augusta, Dec. 10 (AP)- The Maine Water Improvement Commission will recommend upgrading of a sizable proportion of the 7,000 to 8,000 miles of waterways it has surveyed for pollution, its secretary said today.

The commission met here today to prepare its final report for the Legislature, which Dr. Dean H. Fisher, Health and Welfare commissioner, said will be published in about a week.

He said the commission has held hearings in all counties except York and Cumberland. Its report will show the condition of about one-fourth of the state's waters. Methods and cost of upgrading streams will not be suggested in the report, Dr. Fisher said, but probably will be brought out in legislative committee hearings.

Major waterways, like the Androscoggin, Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers, have not yet been surveyed, however and Dr. Fisher said it would take four or five man crew most of a year to survey the Androscoggin alone.

In response to complaints that one of the classifications is too broad, the commission will recommend that the Legislature create an extra class of waters.

Present classes are A, free of pollution and suitable for drinking; B, suitable for swimming and for drinking when treated with chlorine; C, capable of supporting fish life but not suitable for bathing or drinking; and D, primarily industrial.

Critics have argued that Class C is too broad, ranging from almost as good as B to almost as bad as D.

The report will say that Class C should be narrowed by widening Class B and dividing it into B1 and B2. Class B1 should be similar to the present Class B water into which it is illegal to dump untreated sewage. Class B2 would allow for introduction of small amounts of raw sewage.

Lewiston Daily Sun

December 27, 1954

POLLUTION IS
KNOTTY ISSUE
TO LAWMAKERS

New Legislature Will
Find No Agreement
Over Controls

WIC REPORT SOON

By Robert M. Crocker

Augusta, Dec. 26 (AP) - The 1955 Legislature, which meets here Jan. 5, probably will have no problem harder to solve than the perennial one of water pollution and what to do about it.

Maine has still many miles of streams and many acres of lakes and ponds unsullied by sewage or industrial waste.

But thousands of persons in the more thickly populated areas daily are within view, and some are within the scent of rivers and streams no longer fit for human contact, let alone consumption.

The problem of pollution is largely an accompaniment of the industrial revolution, with its big factories and the resulting concentration of workers and their families. It has been growing for a long time.

NO OVERNIGHT SOLUTION

All groups concerned with the problem agree something should be done about it. But there the agreement ends.

Even those who demand immediate action admit there is no overnight solution. But those in the forefront of the fight for action, the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control, argue that "an immediate start must be made on a reasonable program of pollution control. The longer this beginning is delayed, the higher the cost."

The cost factor has prompted both industry and municipal officers to adopt a more deliberate approach.

Associated Industries of Maine has taken the position "that the present laws are entirely adequate, that the regulatory body created by that law should have time to show progress and results."

Fish, Game Groups Fit In

This group contends that too speedy action would cripple some industries economically and throw many employees out of work.

Fish and game groups seem to fit somewhere in between, with a desire for more than the present amount of action but no wish to jeopardize the jobs that industry provides or create too heavy municipal burdens.

Present law has created the Water Improvement Commission and assigned it the task of classifying Maine's waters as to degree of pollution and recommending corrective steps. The commission has surveyed about one-fourth of the waters in the last two years.

Report due shortly

Its report, due shortly, will recommend upgrading of 7000 to 8,000 miles of waterways, its secretary said.

But it hasn't tackled the major waterways, where the heaviest pollution exists.

The Legislative Research Committee, in its pollution report, said this activity of the Water Improvement Commission, by itself, is no didn't recommend anything else specifically.

It suggested as long range measures that anti-pollution laws of other states be studied carefully and that some way be sought to combat pollution introduced outside the state into waters flowing into Maine.

Should Tighten Classification

Meanwhile, it said, classifications should be tightened and no lowering of grades allowed; licensing for pollution should be more restrictive; three "public" members, unassociated with industry, should be added to the Water Improvement Commission; and the commission should have more money if the Legislature wants to speed up the work.

Lewiston Evening Journal

December 30, 1954

EDITORIAL

LOCAL ENTERPRISE

Local enterprise is not dead.

Take the case of Charleston, W. Va.

Charleston has a pollution problem--such as is plaguing Maine communities.

Blame for pollution of Maine waters cannot be laid solely to the door of industry.

Down the Androscoggin River Valley, cities and towns dump sewage into the once-clear waters of the stream.

Solution won't be quite so simple as in Charleston's case for big industrial commitments are involved.

Here's what Charleston is doing as described by the city's Chamber of Commerce: "We are spending upwards of \$12 million to build a complete disposal plant with longitudinal assembly lines and many new laterals. The principle of responsibility applies right down the line. The property owner is individually responsible for the proper disposal of his sewage to the street line. There the city government picks it up and as a municipality is responsible for its transport to the disposal plant. This we pay for through water rents."

1955

PRESS COMMENTS

JANUARY 1955

Lewiston Daily Sun

January 4, 1955

EXPLAINS NEW

POLLUTION BILL

Day Cites Paper Mills
as Biggest Causes of
River Pollution

No Unreasonable Time Limit
Is Set By Bill to Hinder
Industry or Towns

A proposed anti-pollution bill which the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control will attempt to have enacted into law at the coming session of the Legislature, was explained to the Androscoggin County Young Republican Club last night at the club's regular meeting at the Elm Hotel.

Auburn Attorney Thomas E. Day, who serves as legal director for the anti-pollution group, told the Young GOP members the bill is modelled after a proven law which is now in operation in Pennsylvania. Day said the Keystone State, which has the greatest pollution problem in the country because of the many mines within its borders, leads the nation in river-clean-up.

In outlining the background of the bill act, Day said that at the last legislature it was inferred by the opponents of the anti-pollution measures "that we of the CCPC were radicals, which we definitely are not."

PAPER MILLS

"We have not yet found anyone who is pro-pollution, they all are anti-pollution. But there are powerful elements who do not want to stop pollution," said Day.

Pointing out the Androscoggin River, which passes through Lewiston-Auburn, is only one of the many polluted streams in the

State, Day said that "the pulp and paper industry on the Androscoggin and Kennebec Rivers discharge a waste which is the kind that will not revivify itself."

Stating that seferage in itself will not pollute a river, Day said tests in the Twin Cities proved that at a point below sewer outlets in the river, the water is more pure than at a point above the sewers.

Explaining one argument of those opposed to action for anti-pollution control of Maine rivers is that it would cost a great deal and probably ruin individual firms, Day said no industry would go broke as a result of passage of the CCPC clean-up bill.

NO TIME LIMIT

One reason for this, said Day, is that no unreasonable time limit has been set to hinder industries,

"The new proposed law recommends that the present Water Improvement Commission be increased in size to 10 members, thus giving the public a greater representation. At the present time," said Day, "those on the commission are directly connected in some way with the pollution problem."

"With a fair commission, an industry, under this law, would not be given any predetermined period of time in which to take the necessary steps to counteract pollution. It would be entirely up to the discretion of the commission."

Day pointed out that if an industry takes all the steps it can and does what is within its power to combat pollution, no action would be taken to harm the operations of the industry.

"Industry can't clean up in a hurry," said Day. "But neither will it have to go broke to clean up."

NO SALMON FOR IKE

"The allegation that the CCPC is radical will be exploded at the next Legislature," said Day. "That charge was made by those who do not want any improvement in our State."

Day pointed out that at Bangor, the city uses water from the Penobscot River which is polluted from a paper mill further up the river. As a result of the high quantity of purification chemicals which are put in the water there is actually an odor from the drinking water in that city.

"Richmond has recently spent \$60,000 to take water from a lake where it formerly took drinking water from the Kennebec River. Brewer is also now taking its water from a lake and not a river."

"It's getting so in the Penobscot River that salmon fishing is decreasing every year because of pollution. Pretty soon there will not even be a salmon for the President.

"Everything in this new act is what industry wanted."

During a discussion period following his talk, Day was asked what the main sources of pollution are on the Androscoggin River. He mentioned paper mills at Berlin, N. H., Rumford and Livermore Falls.

On the subject of sewage disposal as a municipal problem, Day said that on the same grounds as the proposed legislation "no town will go broke."

There will be no rigid time limit on municipalities, said Day. According to the law, "any municipality shall have the power to issue bonds, revenue certificates or other obligations to finance, in whole, or in part, the carrying out of any order or direction of the commission without regard to restrictions, limitations or provisions of the act."

IN FIVE YEARS

Day pointed out that should an industry or individual, the latter would be covered by a "petty pollution" section in the proposed law, prove to be stubborn in response to the commissions orders to halt pollution activities, the act would make provisions for fines and imprisonment. In the case of industry the law would, if passed, provide that the officers of the corporation are liable, said Day.

In response to a question, Day said if the law is passed by the Legislature, a big improvement in river pollution will become evident in about five years.

As far as taxation is concerned, it was pointed out that since industry is tied in with municipalities in waste disposal a joint assessment would probably be made, but that all communities would not be affected. That would depend on what engineers found in relation to the degree of pollution caused by a community.

Asked what methods could be used by industry to dispose of wastes from their plants, he said they could manufacture by-products but that many industries would prefer to continue with their main product.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

January 7, 1955

(Part of EDITORIAL)

Gov. Muskie's Program

The Governor is sensible on the subject of stream improvement, and he correctly states that this is a question impossible to solve speedily. He is right, too, in calling for repeal of the Fernald law prohibiting the export of power. Maine no longer should isolate itself from its sister states by clinging to a theory long ago disproved- that abundant cheap power would attract industries here. If we are to move forward, the State must adopt an interstate, international outlook on the exploitation of power resources.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

January 7, 1955

(Text of Governor Muskie's inaugural Address)
(with regard to Stream Improvement)

No discussion of industrial development would be complete without reference to the problem of stream improvement. In the first place, solution of the problem has serious economic implications for existing industries which must not be disregarded. In the second place, an abundant supply of clean water has undoubted advantages as an inducement for new industries to locate in this State. These advantages will increase as the problem of water supply becomes more acute in other parts of the country; and we should improve our position in this respect as quickly as possible. The need for action becomes even clearer when we consider the subject of clean streams as a conservation measure important to our recreation industry and our shellfish industry.

The necessity for action is easier to spell out than is the solution. Patience, ingenuity, and cooperation on the part of all those interested will be required before the problem is brought under control if we are to avoid undue burdens for existing industries and our municipalities.

Consistent with these considerations, the following action is recommended at this time:

1. Completion of the work of classification of waters within two years, and appropriation of the necessary funds.
2. A tightening of the third highest classification, class "C", which, under present law, is too broad.
3. Reorganization of the Water Improvement Commission to give increased representation to "public" members having no direct connection with industry.

4. In addition, the Commission should be required to explore the possibilities of pollution abatement and report its findings in two years, together with its recommendations relative to methods, costs, and the setting of a time limit for compliance. For this purpose, it should draw upon the experience of other states in so far as such experience is applicable to the pollution problems which the Commission's classification work discloses.

It is essential that our policy in this field be firm and progressive while avoiding damage to our industrial structure. Industry has a responsibility to press constantly forward to a solution. Their attack should be aimed at both industrial waste and municipal sewage but progress against the one need not be made contingent upon progress against the other. A sober, objective approach, based on a solid foundation of fact and experience is the key to a final and satisfactory solution.

Lewiston Evening Journal

January 27, 1955

POLLUTION REPORT RECOMMENDS
CLASSIFYING THOUSANDS OF MILES
OF MAINE WATERS BY DEGREES

AUGUSTA AP - A report recommending classification of seven to eight thousand miles of Maine waters by degree of pollution-the first stage of the State's present plan of pollution control- was published today by the Water Improvement Commission.

More than 200 individual streams and ponds were listed in the report, with the classification the WIC proposes be set by the Legislature.

In response to requests of sportsmen's and other groups, the commission recommended rearranging the classifications to narrow the variations allowed within Class C, which was regarded as too broad.

Present classes are A, free of pollution; B, suitable for recreation and for drinking when properly treated; C, somewhat polluted but capable of supporting aquatic life; and D, primarily for industrial and sewage use.

The report recommended creating a new Class B1, with the same definition as the present Class B; and B2, slightly below Class B in quality but higher than the average for Class C. This would leave Class C covering waters now at or below the present Class C average.

The 1953 law which set up the classifications placed some waters in Class A, mostly those in wilderness areas.

The new report made no additions to Class A waters, but recommended that 74 waterways be classed in Class B1, only 9 in Class D and the rest in between.

The report covered about one-fourth of Maine's waters.

The WIC has not studied the State's major waterways, generally the more heavily polluted. A spokesman said it would take the present staff at least a year to classify the Androscoggin River alone.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

January 29, 1955

URGES CAUTION ON
POLLUTION CONTROL

Me. Municipal Ass'n Suggests
"Go-Slow-And Find Out Policy"

HALLOWELL, Jan 28 (AP)-The Maine Municipal Ass'n, said today, in regard to pollution control, that it would oppose any legislation "other than cautious-progressive policy".

MMA executive secretary Frank G. Chapman added that from a municipal viewpoint the factors to consider are the economic well-being of the community, the relative importance of pollution to present finances, and the taxpayer's ability to pay for pollution control.

Along with a "go-slow-and-find-out policy", the MMA also suggested the creation of a state board to help towns and arrange for federal funds to plan sewage disposal.

PRESS COMMENTS

FEBRUARY 1955

The Lewiston Daily Sun

February 7, 1955

POLLUTION IS
KNOTTY ISSUE

Lawmakers Face Forest
of Facts, Figures
and Opinions

Governor's Recommendations
Contain Two Favored by
Each of Main Groups

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of five articles on Maine's river and stream pollution problems, which promise to become an issue at this session of the Legislature. The articles will explain the stands of the various interested groups and report on some of the developments in other states.)

BY EDWARD C. SCHLICK

Maine's legislators will undoubtedly be called upon at this session of the Legislature to referee a heated battle over changes in the existing program of pollution abatement.

The governor and the Legislative Research Committee have recommended modifications in the current system. The Associated Industries of Maine defend these laws as "entirely adequate" and the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control assail the laws as "ineffective and expensive." The latter group plans to introduce a completely new bill at the Legislature this week.

The lawmakers may have a difficult time in blazing a trail for the best interests of the State through an ever-growing forest of facts, figures, estimates, opinions, charges and counter-charges.

LONG A TROUBLE SPOT

Pollution of the State's waters has long been a sore spot, the subject of lawsuits, of stormy hearings and protracted studies. This is the varied background against which the lawmakers will have to make their decision on what to do about this problem during the next two years.

The duty of the present Water Improvement Commission is mainly the collection of data and testimony so they can recommend to the Legislature that certain portions of the State's inland waters be classified as pure, almost pure, moderately polluted and badly polluted.

For all practical purposes the basic field and laboratory studies necessary as a preliminary for classification consideration have been completed throughout the State," said Dr. Dean Fisher, executive secretary of the WIC, in his report to the Legislative Research Committee.

NOT A "MAJOR ACTIVITY"

Once the waters have been classified in groups labeled as A, B, C, or D, it is part of the duty of the WIC to see that the streams don't fall into a lower group and to enforce "related anti-pollution laws." However, the law enforcement functions of the WIC "are not a major activity," Dr. Fisher told the Legislative Research Committee.

After an exhaustive study of pollution argument, the Legislative Research Committee decided that "existing laws and the administrative agencies charged with the operation of these laws are not sufficient to control or correct the pollution problem. The present system of classification by itself, is inadequate to meet the situation."

After an exhaustive study of anti-pollution laws in other states a legislative program based on this study should be enacted in Maine to combat pollution, said the legislative committee.

WANT WIC REORGANIZED

Before new anti-pollution laws are enacted, immediate steps should be taken to remove the "loophole" in class C which allows industry to increase pollution loads by expanding production facilities recommended the committee, and the Water Improvement Commission should be reorganized to include three "public" members having no direct connection with industry.

In his inaugural address, Gov. Edmund S. Muskie favored four steps-two of them meet with the approval of the Associated industries of Maine and two of them are backed by the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control.

The industries go along with the governor's request for a larger appropriation for the WIC to complete the classification of streams and his suggestion that the possibilities of pollution abatement be explored, with a report on methods, costs and time limits to be made in two years,

"SUGAR-COATED" PROGRAM

The conservation group backs Gov. Muskie's suggested reorganization of the WIC to include more "public" members having no direct connection with industry and his request for a tightening of the "too broad" C classification.

Thus the battle lines are broadly drawn with the Associated Industries on one side, the Citizens for Conservation on the other and the recommendations of the governor and the legislative research committee more or less in the middle. The peculiar thing is that everyone, without exception, has gone on record as favoring clean waters. The disagreement is over when and how to achieve this goal.

The present system of pollution control was "sugar coated" so the 96th Legislature would swallow it, Dr. Fisher told about 50 of the State's civil engineers at a meeting last November.

"MORE REALISTIC" PROGRAM

The legislators were drawn into a "trap" when they gave their approval to stream classification beginning with the "upper" uncontroversial streams, Dr. Fisher told the engineers. The big step was in getting the Legislature to recognize the principle of control of the streams.

"After the next Legislature (the 97th) goes back home I believe we will have an entirely different program and one which is much more realistic," he said.

Many of the legislators have indicated they consider pollution one of the major problems but few of them have stated definitely what measures they favor. The solons who are undecided face a knotty problem in trying to untangle the opposing arguments.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

February 8, 1955

HOW EACH SIDE SEES POLLUTION

Associated Industries
Favor Existing Law,
Cite its Benefits

CCPC Wants New Law, Claim-
ing Tighter Rules Didn't Hurt
Industry in Other States

(This is the second of five articles on Maine's pollution problems by EDWARD C. SCHLICK)

"Pollution abatement requirements should be examined in terms of their true value against their real cost to all the people," a representative of the Associated Industries of Maine recently told the Legislative Research Committee.

"Clean waters is everybody's business and everybody pays

the bill," he said and certainly few would quarrel with this viewpoint.

The spokesmen for the 175 companies in the Associated Industries of Maine, as their views are expressed in the legislative report and a recently published booklet, appear to center their arguments around three principal questions: How serious is the problem?, is the present law adequate?, and what are the economic problems of pollution abatement?

POLLUTION HURTS FEW

"There is nothing in the records to prove that disease results from industrial pollution," an industry representative told the legislative committee.

Only a "small percentage" of the State's 30,000 miles of rivers and streams are polluted, said J. William Schulze, president of the Associated Industries of Maine, as he recently broadcast industry's views of the problem.

A maximum of 7% of Maine's streams are polluted, he said, and "not over 3% are in a condition of what we may call high pollution.

"Anyone looking at the facts would have to conclude that comparatively very few people are hurt by industrial wastes in our streams."

DID EASY ONES FIRST

While they recommend more funds for the Water Improvement Commission, the Associated Industries stand solidly behind the existing laws as "entirely adequate."

By this time next year more than half of the States' streams should be classified and "no new waste disposal into unclassified streams is permitted without a license from the Water Improvement Commission," said Schulze.

These streams are easy to survey because they are receiving little or no pollution now, he said. Classification will enable the State to keep them "undefiled."

The very nature of the pollution problem makes the solution long range, T. F. Spear of Rumford told the research committee. The present system should have more time to show progress. Industry has devoted time, effort and money to the problem and in many cases the situation is "generally improving."

FEAR "GHOST TOWNS"

Perhaps the most potent argument put forth by the industries is an economic one. Their booklet on pollution twice mentions "ghost towns" and paints a very unpleasant picture of increased taxes, lost payrolls and shrunken industries if cities and industries are forced "to spend large amounts of money foolishly

long before a sensible solution to this problem is found."

A workable solution would be welcomed by industry, said Schulze. If there were known technical methods available to stop pollution economically, it would be done immediately. Sewage he pointed out, must also be considered because it is an "equally important" part of the problem.

In brief, the present stand of industry appears to be that the problem is not very serious in Maine, that the current law is adequate, and that the State will lose economically if pressure is put on the industries to force pollution abatement.

EVERY RIVER DAMAGED

On the other side of the fence is the stand taken by the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control who want a new law modeled on the one in effect in Pennsylvania, and whose arguments are detailed in the report of the legislative committee and several pamphlets.

While industrial wastes do not cause disease, they create conditions which prevent the stream from destroying germs and they help make the water a carrier of disease, said Dr. Norman R. Tufts of Auburn, executive director of the group.

"One mile of brook you can jump across should not be counted as the equivalent of one mile of a major river," he said. "Over 90% of the State's major rivers are polluted, according to a survey by the State Health Department. Every major useful waterway in the State is severely damaged by pollution and the majority of our people live near these rivers."

ATTRACTION FOR INDUSTRY

No one can estimate how much pollution has cost the State, Dr. Tufts said. Not only the health of the people, but the expense of water purification to the very industries causing much of the pollution, the limitation of industrial expansion, loss of revenue to the recreation and fishing industries, and the lowering of real estate values.

"Plenty of clean water would be a major inducement to attract a variety of new industries," he said.

The conservation group strongly favors the adoption of a new law. They say the present "approach" will never result in clean-up "becoming a reality in our time."

LAW LACKS "TEETH"

Criticism is fired at the present set-up on the grounds that present laws are not even holding the line on pollution, the WIC is "loaded pro-industry," the classification of a stream can be lowered to suit a new polluter or enlargement of an old plant, and the law lacks "teeth" to support clean-up.

"Industries are growing, the pollution load is increasing

and in most cases no treatment facilities are being planned," said Dr. Tufts "because the present laws permit legal increase in waste loads in our waters. Certainly these cannot be called adequate laws."

The conservation group favors a law "flexible enough to avoid hardship, yet rigid enough to do the job" and enforced by an adequately financed Water Improvement Commission balanced so that the industries cannot control it.

WASTE 95% INDUSTRIAL

"The states leading the Nation in pollution abatement are not the states using the classification system." Dr. Tufts told the legislative committee. "We are saddled with a time-consuming ineffective and expensive anti-pollution approach."

Municipal sewage presents nowhere near the problem that industrial waste does, he said. The survey by U. S. Army Engineers shows that 96% of the pollution in a river like the Androscoggin comes from industry. Only the larger cities on a relatively small waterway would be affected by clean-up.

The conservation group was also sharply critical of the position taken by industry on the lack of workable solutions to the problem and the possible economic effect of a stronger law.

Waste treatment plants have been devised in other states for every major type of industry now polluting Maine waters, said Dr. Tufts. Many of these out-of-state manufacturers, especially in the pulp and paper industry, are making a profit from their waste treatment plants.

"We have checked several states that are well advanced in clean-up," he told the legislative committee, "and have found no industry that had to move, close or curtail production as a result of a firm clean-up policy. Municipalities were not embarrassed either."

It appears to be the opinion of the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control that pollution is a serious problem adversely affecting the larger part of Maine's population, that the existing law is "ineffective and expensive" and that the State stands to gain economically if pressure is put on the industries to force pollution abatement within the next few years.

Lewiston Evening Journal

February 11, 1955

BRUNSWICK SEWER BILL PRESENTED

By Edward C. Schlick

AUGUSTA-A change in the powers of the trustees of the Brunswick Sewer District allowing them to assess undeveloped lots for the costs of sewer improvements will be considered as emergency legislation by the Legislature.

The bill, filed by Rep. Adam Walsh (Brunswick-D), a trustee of the sewer district, allows the trustees to make such assessments as they "deem equitable" but not to exceed two-thirds of the total costs of the improvement.

DISPOSAL PLANT

Walsh mentioned the long-range planning of the district in buying 40 acres of land near the main sewer outlet so that a disposal plant can be constructed there when this becomes necessary.

"From the health standpoint the cities should clean up their waste and the time is coming when they will," he said. "The officials of the sewer district have been trying to think ahead so we will have land to put a plant on when it becomes necessary. It seems an unjustified expense now because the Androscoggin is so badly polluted all the way down."

The Lewiston Daily Sun

February 10, 1955

CITES BENEFITS FROM CLEAN-UP

NENYIAC Report Gives
List for Industry
and Citizens

Sees Water Surplus in River
Valley at Least Until
the Next Century

(This is the third of five articles on Maine's pollution problems by Edward C. Schlick)

"We must determine who and how many of our people are suffering serious effects from pollution and at the same time, how many of our people have gained through our industries and their activities," T. F. Spear of the Associated Industries of Maine told the Legislative Research Committee.

"Another important consideration is how and how much has the economy of our State suffered through stream impairment," he said. Certainly these are valid questions.

Spear went on to say, and many people seem to agree with him, that much is made of the damage to the recreational industries but the resort business in the State continues to increase year by year. Damage to fishing is another point but there is "ample opportunity to fish in unpolluted waters in practically any part of the State."

FOR FISHERMEN ONLY?

If pollution abatement is going to be primarily for the benefit and convenience of a few fishermen, why should the State, the industries and the cities get the expense and trouble of treating their waste?

The survey of Maine's rivers by U. S. Army engineers for the New England-New York Inter-Agency Committee (as revised in May 1954) helps to answer the question of who would benefit from clean water.

The survey, which has been nicknamed the "gold book" after its gold cover, says the benefits of pollution abatement would be both tangible and intangible but "these benefits have been the basis for the investment of millions of dollars in existing sewage and industrial waste treatment facilities in other river basins that have been constructed to serve the best interests of the public."

A "HEALTH MENACE"

Some of the major benefits listed in the Androscoggin River "gold book" are:

1. A "real, significant" benefit to public health by reducing the chances for waterborne diseases by the treatment of or elimination of municipal, institutional and industrial sewage pollution. Sewage polluted waters are always a health menace."
2. Large volumes of readily accessible water at desirable industrial sites could be made available for; and attractive to, new industrial development that could "result in increased income and economic stability for the basin."
3. The construction of needed municipal sewage treatment works could make the communities served more attractive to new industries requiring this municipal utility which "could be of real significance to local economies."

"SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS"

4. A number of industries "now discharging industrial wastes may realize significant savings through recovery of valuable by-products and greater utilization of raw materials."
5. Industrial, residential and recreational real estate now located on or dependent on waters presently receiving pollution may be made more desirable and thereby "appreciably increased in value when pollution is abated."
6. Large areas of land and water resources would be made suitable for greater development and thereby add to the income and economic stability of the region by an increased tourist and vacation trade.

Additional benefits might include the opening of clam flats which could result in "significant increased income to the shell-fish industry," making water available for agriculture, the prevention of nuisances and better public relations for industry.

INDSUTRY NEEDS WATER

To sum up the benefits, the "gold book" says "the general welfare would be enhanced by the conservation of a vital natural resource for its best uses and by a greater opportunity to benefit therefrom."

What should be of special interest to Maine, which has steadily increased its efforts to attract new industries, is the number of potentially new industries which may have taken a look at the quality of Maine water and decided to locate elsewhere.

The industrial needs for water are great. According to a survey by the National Association of Manufacturers, the manufacture of viscose rayon requires an average of 180,000 to 200,000 gallons of water for each ton of product; rayon yarns, 240,000 to 404,000 gallons per ton; woollens and worsteds, 140,000 gallons per ton; rolled steel 110,000 gallons per ton; whiskey, 80,000 gallons per 1,000 gallons of whiskey.

CHECKS EXPANSION

That pollution can be one of the major causes of an economic blight is widely recognized.

In an article on stream pollution in 1952 the Scientific American commented that "The social and economic costs of pollution are beyond computation; they include such diverse items as effects on the health of our people, the expense of water purification, limitation of industrial expansion, loss of revenue to fisherman and recreational interests, decline of real estate values."

In an article on pollution last June Business Week Magazine commented that "Basically, water is an economic resource. The availability of water-usable water-can make or break an area economically. You don't see many plants going up in the desert. And polluted water can check industrial expansion just as effectively as lack of water.

MIGHT GET "WET" INDUSTRIES

"Unlike most natural resources, water will never be "short" in an absolute sense. There will always be more available. But it may be available at a price industry cannot afford to pay. If an industry has to pay prohibitive prices in any area, it may decide to move elsewhere."

To come back to the Androscoggin River valley, the "gold book" says "there will be a great surplus of water available at least to the year 2,000. This great surplus of water would support new wet industries if transportation, public utilities, labor and other essentials could be provided and if the water quality were attractive.

"The quality of the water in the future will depend on action taken to maintain or improve the present water condition

by control of the municipal and industrial pollution and to a small degree by improved land use practises to control erosion.

EVERYBODY PAYS

An examination of water as a natural resource valuable to industry leads to the conclusion that pollution is not a surface problem affecting a few fishermen who would like to see the salmon leap again, but a problem vital to the welfare of everyone. Pollution, like a cancerous growth reaches more deeply and does more harm, than is apparent on the surface.

How to stop pollution, when to stop pollution and how much it will cost may be open to some debate, but there is no doubt that everyone is paying now and will continue to pay the hidden costs of dirty water.

"Clean waters is everybody's business and everybody pays the bill," Spear told the research committee.

This is true, but there is a bill for dirty water as well as for clean water. It is up to the public and the legislators to add them up, compare them, and see which one they want to pay.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

February 14, 1955

POLLUTION IN RIVER STUDIED

Army Engineers Blame
Industry for 96% of
Waste Substances

Report Androscoggin Has 22
Separate Sources; Sewage
Accounts for About 4%

(This is the fourth of five articles on Maine's pollution problems by Edward C. Schlick)

One pollution problem that needs to be probed a little more deeply is the relation of municipal to industrial pollution.

The industry and the conservation spokesmen differ widely in the emphasis they place on the damage done by municipal sewage.

In his inaugural address Gov. Edmund S. Muskie said, "The attack should be aimed at both industrial waste and municipal sewage but progress against one need not be made contingent upon progress against the other."

However, none of the interested groups got down to cases and mentioned a specific river in order to see just how much pollution was floating down it and where it was coming from. Perhaps this information wasn't available at the time of the Legislative Research Committee hearings but it is available now for Maine's major rivers in the so-called "gold book"-the U.S. engineers survey of Maine's rivers for the New England-New York Inter-Agency Committee.

POLLUTION MEASUREMENT

When it comes to measuring pollution the engineers have a problem. A 1,000 gallons of a strong chemical may do considerably more harm and affect the river over a much longer distance than 1,000 gallons of dirty street water, sewage, or weaker industrial waste.

So they measure waste in the amount of oxygen it takes from the water and state this in terms of "population equivalent." A city of 10,000 people has a "population equivalent" of 10,000 as far as pollution goes. A factory dumping waste in a stream may have a population equivalent of any number depending on how strong the waste is.

The factory waste is the equal or equivalent of the waste from that many people. This is the standard way of measuring pollution and is used throughout the ***

96% INDUSTRIAL

In the Androscoggin River basin, according to the Army engineers, there is pollution equivalent to what there would be if 2,640,000 people were living on the banks of the river and polluting it.

Ninety-six per cent of this pollution load comes from the 22 industries in the river basin while the remaining 4% comes from the various towns and cities.

"The total pollution load contributed by industrial wastes in the Androscoggin River Basin during periods of normal plant operation has been computed to have a population equivalent of over 2,500,000 persons ..." says the report of the survey.

While there are 22 separate sources of industrial pollution "pulp and paper manufacturing plants contribute the largest amounts of pollution by far," adds the "gold book."

KENNEBEC IS SIMILAR

The report said the pulp and paper plants in the Androscoggin Valley dump 91% of the pollution load carried by the water, while all the remaining industries and cities contribute the remaining 9%.

The lopsidedness of the figures seems somewhat remarkable but the very lengthy table included in the survey details the amount of pollution coming from each source of more than 50 persons. One paper mill alone on the main stem of the Androscoggin

is placing in the river pollution which is over 1,200,000 or more than would come from the entire population of Maine.

The Androscoggin may not be a typical river but the figures are generally similar for the Kennebec River. On the Kennebec 95% of the pollution load comes from industrial sources and 84% of the pollution load comes from the pulp and paper plants.

NO DROP IN POLLUTION

In 1950, the State Department of Health and Welfare, following several years of complaints about the smell of the Androscoggin, surveyed the river. Their figure on the pollution load of the river is several hundred thousand under the "gold book" total and would seem to indicate the pollution load has either remained about the same or risen slightly in the last four years.

The State engineers also separated one particular source of pollution that the Army engineers didn't bother with. The State and the Army show about the same amount of pollution from pulp and paper manufacturing but the State survey also points out that 92% of this waste is due to sulphite liquor alone. Only 8% of the volume of pulp and paper wastes other than sulphite to liquor at the time of the State survey

SULPHITE LIQUOR

The figures of both the State and Federal engineers point to one thing. Sulphite liquor is by far the biggest source of pollution in the Androscoggin and Kennebec River basins.

Now certainly no thoughtful person wants to throw stones at one of the region's most important industries. Only the foolhardy would desire clean water at the expense of slashed payrolls, lost industry and "ghost towns."

But it might pay the Legislature and the public to look closely at what has been done in other States during the past 10 years and what is being done now to take the poisonous and powerful sulphite liquor out of the streams. This look especially should include states such as Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Lewiston Evening Journal

February 17, 1955

WINTHROP LEGISLATOR WANTS MORE DEFINITE PROGRAM OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT

By Edward C. Schlick

AUGUSTA- A bill calling for a more definite program of pollution abatement has been filed at the Legislature by Rep. Robert W. Maxwell, (Winthrop-R).

One of the several bills changing the present set-up of

pollution control, Maxwell's bill is aimed at cleaning up the waters of the state in a "certain period of time according to the need for pollution abatement in each case and the ability of each town, city or industry to pay."

The proposed legislation would allow the present water improvement commission to classify both municipalities and industries as well as the state waters. Under the present system only the waters are classified as pure, almost pure, moderately polluted, and badly polluted.

SET TIME LIMIT

Towns, cities and industries would be classified on the basis of how much pollution they contributed to the water at the point where they are dumping their waste, said Maxwell. After a written request by the Water Improvement Commission each polluter would be required to present a plan for pollution abatement which would apply to its own particular waste.

"Municipalities paying a high tax per capita would get longer to clean up and would set aside less each year," said Maxwell. "If the tax is low they would have to set aside more each year and begin abatement in a shorter time."

INCLUDES INDUSTRIES

If any municipality shows that it can handle pollution abatement by another means within the time limit set by the commission, it would be permitted to do so as long as the job was done correctly, said Maxwell.

"Industries would be classified in the same manner," he added, "their financial status would be considered and the potency of their waste. They would be allowed to solve their problems in their own fashion but in no case would their time limit for pollution abatement be allowed to exceed that of a municipality in the same class."

The Lewiston Daily Sun

February 19, 1955

SULPHITE WASTE USE IS PROBLEM

Wisconsin Trying Out By-Products to Halt
River Pollution

Include Yeast, Adhesives and Road Material;
Brown Co. Has Furfural Operation

(This is the last of five articles on Maine's pollution problems by Edward C. Schlick)

Industry has devoted time, effort and money toward solving the pollution problem and will continue to be in favor of clean waters "in so far as such objective is practical and within reason economically," T. F. Spear of the Associated Industries

of Maine, has told the Legislative Research Committee.

At the end of 1953 Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, head of the chemistry department at Bates College, told the National Council for Stream Improvement "...the pollution program will not be solved until some economic method is found to utilize most, if not all,, of the sulphite waste liquor.

"For this reason all of the more promising processes for recovery or conversion of sulphite waste liquor have been investigated. To date none has been found satisfactory for incorporation in the present mills within economic limits."

"AT A PROFIT"

At the end of 1953 the Brown Co. began operating a pilot plant to see if it would be economical to make furfural from the waste sulphite liquors.

The industry, it would appear, is not only eager to solve the problem but has directed as much effort and expense toward this end as is possible.

In 1952 a magazine called Oil Power, published by the Socony-Vacuum Oil Co., printed an article on how the spent sulphite liquors were being put to work "at a profit."

The article explained that in the sulphate process the expensive sodium base must be recovered so there is no waste to worry about while in the sulphite process the "wood chips are cooked in a acid liquor with a calcium base which is cheap and expendable. It is very difficult to evaporate and burn, and it is this corrosive liquor, carrying the lignin cement, which is often discharged into rivers."

"APPALLING WASTE"

In the Androscoggin River basin, a Federal survey reported pulp and paper wastes to make up more than 90% of the total pollution load and an earlier State survey indicated more than 90% of the pulp and paper waste pollution is sulphite liquor.

The Oil Power article points out that chemists have spent years on the sulphite liquor problem and that it is an "appalling economic waste to throw away the spent liquors" which contain the sugars and lignin that make up about half the wood.

"It is possible to change the form of the cooking liquor so that the spent liquors can be burned; this answers the problem of pollution but not that of waste.

"An extensive program of research is carried on by the Sulphite Pulp Manufacturers' Research League, composed of 14 pulp mills in Wisconsin and Michigan. One of their successful projects has resulted in the construction of the Lakes States Yeast Corporation at Rhinelander, Wis."

SULPHITE BY-PRODUCTS

The article gives some of the details of the Yeast Corporation operation which uses the sugar in the sulphite liquor and "went into action in 1948 with an initial design capacity of 4.5 tons of dry yeast daily."

Another Wisconsin firm, the Marathon Corporation, picked up the lignin fraction of the spent sulphite liquor and used it to make a binder for the ceramics industry and Portland cement industry, and other lignin derivatives which are used for tanning leather, increasing the capacity of storage batteries and keeping scale from forming in steam boilers.

Almost one year after the Oil Power article appeared Business Week printed a story under the heading "Wisconsin pulp makers gang up to beat the pollution problem. They're getting yeast and chemicals from waste."

PRODDED BY LEGISLATURE

This story also concerns the Sulphite Pulp Manufacturers Research League and points out that the Rhinelander Paper Co. is diverting its waste from the river into special evaporators. The concentrated "liquor from these evaporators to be sold as a chemical raw material or burned as a fuel or diverted to other markets."

The yeast plant used 60% to 70% of the sulphite liquor and produced enough marketable yeast so that the plant showed a profit.

"In 1948," said the Business Week article, "the Wisconsin Legislature had prodded its State Committee on Water Pollution to action. Deadlines were set for mills and other industries to clean up. Generally they were given one year for cooking up a plan and one year to put it into effect."

INSTALL EVAPORATORS

The Rhinelander Paper Co. put its evaporator, which was patterned after a Swedish model, into operation. It took the desugared liquor from the yeast plant and concentrated it to a 50% solids solution, entailing the evaporation of six pounds of water for every one pound of 50% solution. Three other mills began to put in evaporators.

Some of the uses of the dried and bagged material include manufacture of linoleum cement, gummed paper tape, Portland cement, leather, various chemical uses and use as a fuel with a heat value of 7,000 BTU. a pound.

About six months after the Business Week article appeared, the Associated Press carried a story about the same group of Wisconsin pulp and paper plants and their research league.

ONE MILL BUYS IT

The Associated Press story outlined three uses of the waste sulphite liquor.

1. Separating the sugars to make yeast.
2. A "cheap, easy and effective" road binder which has been used on many miles of Wisconsin roads.
3. Separation of the solids for use in a "dozen or more products ranging from adhesive to textile dyes to food flavoring."

The Marathon Corporation in Rothschild, Wis., announced in the spring of 1953 that it was putting into operation new equipment which would boost the manufacture of chemical by-products of sulphite liquor by more than 60%.

This means, said the AP story that the Marathon Corp. "is not only using up all its own sulphite liquor to make commercial products, but now it will have to go out and buy the one-time waste product from other mills."

EXCELLENT ROAD BINDER

With all the debate about what can be done to improve Maine roads, the Legislature might take a close look at how Wisconsin has used waste sulphite liquor as a road binder.

In July 1953 the American City magazine, which is widely read by municipal officials, printed an article on the use of the waste material on Wisconsin roads.

The troublesome pollutant promises to become a boon to the street and highway industry, said the story. Tests in Wisconsin show that the liquor stops road dust, strengthens road surfaces and aids in surface repair.

For many years the untreated liquor was used in light applications, then during World War II they experimented with heavier applications and "to everyone's amazement a lasting crust formed on the road surface. Subsequent experience developed techniques grading before and immediately after application, so that the surface became not only dustless, but practically equivalent to a blacktop surface for riding quality."

"GOOD AS NEW"

"Properly treated roads have come through weveral winters without frost boils and in general have required less spring-maintenance than untreated roads."

One county supervisor used the liquor to help soften hard chunks of asphalt for remixing. It caused the asphalt to soften, and crumble to a fine texture and then to reharden after being graded into shape, making a surface "practically as good as new."

The road treated in this manner, says the article, went throughout the winter without frost boils and stood up

satisfactorily under the traffic load.

Word of these developments spread to the Sulphite Pulp Manufacturers Research League. Appleton, Wis., and a group of the mills in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota formed the Sulphite Roadbinder Association to work in this field. The new techniques were urged by the mills and "generally adopted by the public authorities who are regularly preparing subgrades with sulphite liquor before applying blacktop."

ECONOMICAL WITHIN 100 MILES

The sulphite liquor is supplied at the "bare cost of hauling and spreading, an expense low enough to make treatment economical anywhere within 75 to 100 miles of a sulphite pulp mill," concludes the American City article. "Several Wisconsin mills are now raising the average 10% solids concentration of sulphite liquor to 50% or 60% by evaporating excess water. This development extends by several hundred miles the radius of the area to which the concentrate can be shipped for economical use as a road binder."

In Pennsylvania a "memorandum concerning savings realized by industry in Pennsylvania incident to the abatement of pollution of the waters of the commonwealth," lists four pulp and paper plants treating sulphite liquors and making a "profitable recovery" and another plant which "breaks about even in cost of operation versus value of recovered material."

PRESS REPORTS

MARCH 1955

Lewiston Evening Journal

March 3, 1955

REP. HODGDON INTRODUCES BILL
TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP
OF WATER IMPROVEMENT COM.

AUGUSTA AP*-A bill to enlarge the membership of the Water Improvement Commission and add more members from the general public-an inaugural recommendation of Gov. Muskie-was introduced in the House today.

Republican Rep. Williams Hodgdon submitted the bill to increase the commission to eight members in addition to the Commissioner of Health and Welfare. At present, there are two members from industry, two representatives of municipalities and two from the general public.

William's bill would add two more from the general public. All appointments to the commission are made by the governor with the approval of the Executive Council.

Muskie based his recommendations on the need for clean streams for industrial and recreational sites and as a conservation measure. He also asked in his inaugural address for completion of classification of waters, a tightening of the "Class C" classification and an investigation of pollution abatement.

A bill to re-establish grants to academies acting as public secondary schools was introduced by Rep. Thomas (R-Anson)

Lewiston Evening Journal

March 3, 1955

FILES BILL FOR STUDY OF POLLUTION

AUGUSTA AP- A resolve that calls for a thorough study of Maine's water pollution problem and how to solve it was filed today by Rep. Pierce (R-Bucksport).

It was the first major legislation on the troublesome matter to appear in the current session. It would provide \$75,000 to finance work special recess committee, which would report in 1957 Legislature.

The resolve said the running controversey over pollution indicates that neither those for nor those against pollution control have enough information on which to base a legislative program.

"The effect of premature or unwise legislation would be most harmful to our overall economy," the resolve said, "and conversely, a sound legislative approach to the problem would be in the interest of all our people."

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The committee would consist of four legislators and nine members named by the governor and council, including representatives of industry, fish and game clubs, public health interests, labor, engineering, fisheries and recreation.

Its task would be fourfold:

Investigate extent, location and sources of water pollution.

Learn the effects of pollution on municipalities, industry, commerce and public health and evaluate the tangible and intangible "costs" of pollution.

Estimate the cost of abatement to municipalities and industry.

Develop a plan for securing funds for control measures and allocate the proper share for cities and towns, industry and the State.

The committee could recommend legislation to deal with pollution.

The present Water Improvement Commission is charged with classification of waters as to degree of pollution.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

March 9, 1955

STRICT POLLUTION LAW NOT FEASIBLE; SAYS LABOR LEADER

AUGUSTA- John Barclay of Livermore Falls, chairman of the Maine State Federation of Labor's committee on social welfare, sharply criticized last night one of the bills on pollution which has been filed at this session of the Legislature.

Speaking here at the regional speaking contest of the Toastmaster's Club, he said the "clean Waters Act" which is sponsored by the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control would "impose a strangle-hold on the taxpayers' pocketbook for the next 50 years."

"Any reasonable person having the most elementary knowledge of municipal government and the demands made upon it and its taxing power must certainly be aware that hardly a community in the State is financially able to build a sewage treatment plant or is legally capable of assuming the indebtedness to do so," he said.

"RIGID AND UNREASONABLE"

A flexible time limit is not allowed the municipalities in the bill, he said. It is "rigid and unreasonable."

The bill provides that corporation employees as well as offi-

cers shall be punishable for pollution of the waters, he said. A time limit for clean up may be "reasonable or inane," depending on the conditions involved and the economy imperiled.

"If a new source of nuisance is found and determined to be against the public welfare, a 30-day cease order may be reasonable," said Barclay. "The same implies to an ancient nuisance the correction of which does not involve huge sums or imperil jobs and heavy investments."

A correction period of even two years in some cases, especially those which might "disrupt long established practises and jeopardize thousands of jobs" is another case which needs proper study, he said.

The answer to the problem of pollution is an adequate budget for more comprehensive surveys before "rigid" laws are passed. Arbitrary power which could "foster an aura of industrial insecurity" should not be granted to the Water Commission at this time.

Also taking part in the contest was Phillip Estes of Livermore Falls, two speakers from Camden and two from Augusta.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

March 9, 1955

NELSON BILL TO AID POLLUTION RESEARCH

U.S. Rep. Charles P. Nelson of Augusta yesterday introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would encourage private industry to help solve the nation-wide problem of air and water pollution by providing for a five-year amortization of purification costs for income tax purposes.

It is the first bill which deals with both air and water pollution, whereas the two problems other legislation has attacked separately. Thus, it represents a coordinated effort of those interested in abatement of both menaces to public health and welfare.

The Air and Water Pollution Abatement Bill also represents positive action on public health programs recommended by President Eisenhower in his Jan. 11 message to Congress, in which he called for more effective methods of control of air and water pollution.

Representative Nelson said his bill will provide incentives for American industry to do its part in eliminating stream and atmosphere pollution.

The bill states that the pollution problem, "no longer may be regarded as purely local matter, but transcends State lines and creates serious interstate problems."

It recognizes that "one of the major problems in the abatement of air and water pollution is the elimination or purification of industrial waste through the construction of costly and nonproductive treatment works by private industry."

An amendment to the Internal Revenue Code is cited, which will allow a tax write-off of such properly certified expenditures over a 5-year period. At present such facilities are considered capital assets and subject to the normal depreciation provisions for tax purposes.

The bill contains controls which would permit only those facilities which are installed on the basis of a demand from local governmental body to qualify for certification. Thus, to qualify, a facility must be part of an over-all program aimed at eliminating air and stream impurities.

Many industries now find it impossible to erect such purification facilities without seriously endangering their economic or competitive position. Enactment of this bill would partially overcome this difficulty, Cong. Nelson said.

Lewiston Evening Journal

March 10, 1955

NEW PLAN TO COMBAT STREAM POLLUTION IN STATE
OFFERED LEGISLATURE BY REP. BERNIER

AUGUSTA AP-A new plan to combat stream pollution in Maine was presented to the Legislature today.

It would set up a Maine Rivers Authority empowered to take control measures and finance plants for the treatment of sewage and industrial wastes.

Any industry, municipality or groups of them could borrow from the Authority to construct their own treatment systems. Or, if anyone preferred, the Authority could build the plant and collect rental from the user.

The public also would pay a share out of the general fund of the state.

The bill, which Rep. Bernier(D-Waterville filed by request, would authorize the Authority to issue bonds repayable solely from revenue. These bonds would not be debts of the state.

It also provides that no industry could increase pollution discharged into any stream, or add new source of pollution, without treating it in accordance with Authority regulations.

However, if engineering data showed there was no "practicable, reasonable" method of treatment "within the bounds of economic feasibility," the bill's provisions would not apply.

In any case, the Authority would have to adopt an anti-pollution plan "most economical to the polluter."

Under present law, the Maine Water Commission is classifying the state's waters as to pollution content. It can recommend control measures to the Legislature but has no control powers.

Lewiston Evening Journal

March 15, 1955

FILE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL

AUGUSTA AP- A water pollution control bill embodying recommendations of Gov. Muskie and the Water Improvement Commission was filed today by Rep. Beal (D-Lisbon).

The bill would classify 7,000 to 8,000 miles of Maine waterways, upgrading a substantial portion of them, the WIC said earlier.

Apart from that, principal new restrictions are that all great ponds-10 acres or more in area-shall be classified B1 unless otherwise ordered after public hearing; and that all persons, corporations or municipalities must obtain licenses to discharge any type of pollution, excepting only industries established before August 1, 1945.

In any case a license would be required for increasing the amount or changing the type of sewage or waste discharged.

Exemptions for the Androscoggin, Kennebec, Penobscot, Saco, St. John and other rivers would not be continued beyond the current expiration date of Sept. 1, 1955.

The "B" classification would be divided into two sections with both suitable for boating, bathing and drinking after adequate treatment. The B-1 class would have allowable bacterial content lower than the B-2 class, however.

Class C waters would be those suitable for boating and fishing but not bathing or drinking.

The commission also would be required to recommend to each Legislature possible steps to reduce pollution.

Another bill by Sen. Low (R-Rockland) would have the commission obtain reports from municipalities and industries on any reduction in sewage or industrial waste discharged. It would make recommendations for abatement to those responsible for pollution.

The commission's reports to the Legislature would name persons, firms and municipalities responsible for pollution and steps taken, if any, to reduce it.

Lewiston Evening Journal

March 17, 1955

ANTI-POLLUTION BILL FILED BY REP. BRIGGS;
PROPOSAL BASED ON PENNSYLVANIA LAW

AUGUSTA-A bill modeled on the anti-pollution law in effect in Pennsylvania and "putting teeth" into the Maine pollution law was dropped into the House "hopper" today by Rep. James Briggs (Caribou-R)

"This is a sincere and forthright law that will get the job done if the Legislature will face the problem squarely and honestly," said Briggs. "This measure is an objective approach to the situation."

"The question today is whether or not the citizens of Maine will continue to maintain large numbers of rivers as open sewers not fit for anything but the dumping of industrial and municipal waste."

The success, fairness and efficiency of this type of law has been proven in Pennsylvania which is far ahead of Maine in cleaning-up pollution, said Briggs.

"This law has carried clean-up forward in Pennsylvania and it has not caused any mill or buisness to close down, curtail production, or move," said Briggs.

The three principal sections of the bill provide for control of industrial waste and municipal sewerage and give specific abatement procedure.

The water improvement commission is given the power to order any industry to cease discharging waste into the waters of the state.

The penalty for disobeying the order is a fine from \$100 to \$1,000 and an additional fine of \$1,000 for each day the nuisance is maintained.

The commission is also given the power to hold hearings and investigations on municipal sewerage and to order clean-up within a two year period.

The act provides that municipal sewerage treatment facilities will be paid for out of the general fund or by the issuance of bonds. If neither of these means are possible the financing will be done by issuing revenue bonds and assessing a charge on users of the sewers.

A commission can allow a municipality to continue to discharge sewerage if it finds that the discharge is "not injurious to the public health or animal or aquatic life."

This bill has the support of the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control and the Maine Fish and Game Assn. Dr. Norman Tufts of Auburn, executive director of the Citizens group, has called this bill the means of replacing the many little and confusing contradictory statutes now being defended by industry.

"The law has stiff penalties for non-compliance and violation and yet has a time limit which is flexible enough to avoid hardship, yet rigid enough to do the job," he said.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

March 23, 1955

AT THE LEGISLATURE
VARIETY OF POLLUTION CONTROL
BILLS AWAIT ACTION BY SOLONS

By Edward C. Schlick

AUGUSTA- The Legislature will have its choice of seven or eight bills calling for various actions on pollution control when the lawmakers begin the task of arguing this controversial issue.

A bill filed by Rep. Raymond C. Beal (D-Lisbon Falls) backs up the governor's program and calls for classification of some of the State's streams, the tightening of licensing restrictions and a study of conditions, with a report to be made to the governor, in two years.

"PUTS TEETH" IN LAW

The most controversial bill, filed by Rep. James Briggs (R-Caribou) and approved by the Maine Fish and Game Association and the Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control, would give the Water Improvement Commission the power to demand a clean-up of the State's waters. The judgement of the commission would be backed up with fines or jail sentences for violators of the law.

Opponents say this measure would be too strict while the proponents declare that it would "put teeth" into the pollution law and is the type of law which is responsible for the progress Pennsylvania has made in pollution control. Briggs' bill, which is called "The Clean Waters Act", will be the subject of one of the hottest hearings at this session-probably in mid-April.

Rep. Frank M. Pierce (R-Bucksport) has filed a bill to appropriate \$75,000 for a recess committee study of the problem. This bill will be one of the bills to get the backing of industry.

TWO MORE PUBLIC MEMBERS

Other bills would authorize Maine to join other states in pollution control efforts, set up a Maine Rivers Authority empowered to take control measures and finance plants for waste treatment and add two more public members to the six-man Water Improvement Commission.

In an attempt to abate pollution in a certain period of time and base progress on the ability of each industry and town to pay, Re. Robert Maxwell (R-Winthrop) has presented a bill asking for classification of towns and industries as well as water. Each polluter would be required to file an abatement plan and their financial strength would be one consideration in the time allowed for clean-up and the method of financing it.

Another bill by Sen. Seth Low (R-Rockland) would have the commission obtain reports on pollution sources and make recommendations on abatement, both to the polluters and the Legislature.

A glance at the recently released "Gold Book" figures on water pollution in Maine discloses some of the ammunition which proponents of strict pollution measures are apt to fire at the 97th Legislature.

The "Gold Book" surveys made by the U.S. Army engineers and dated October 1954 show that 47% of the total industrial pollution load of all the New England states and New York State is being carried by Maine Streams.

The Androscoggin River, for instance, carries the largest industrial pollution load of any river in the New England-New York Inter-Agency Compact Area, and this includes such large rivers as the Hudson River and the Connecticut River.

47% OF REGION'S POLLUTION

The next heaviest industrial pollution load in the New England-New York region is carried by the Penobscot River. The Kennebec River is just nosed out of third place in the regional pollution line-up by the Connecticut River but is still rated fourth.

When it comes to sewage pollution the problem is not as acute along the Maine rivers as it is on some other regional waterways. The population along each of the three Maine waterways is close to the 100,000 mark while the waters of the Merrimack River are polluted by about 2,825,000 people, the Hudson River by 1,030,000 people and the Connecticut River by 750,000 people.

While Maine waters carry 47% of the region's industrial pollution they only carry 4.5% of the region's sewage pollution.

Boston Herald

March 24, 1955

MAINE, N. H. PACT URGED ON POLLUTION

PORTLAND, March 23- Pollution in the Androscoggin river can be eliminated if industries, power companies and local governments and individuals "quit barking at each other and move through inter-state compact to start the clean-up," Laurence F. Whittemore, president of the Brown Company said tonight.

Addressing the Maine Bankers' Annual Study Conference, Whittemore admitted that one of the most perplexing problems facing the pulp and paper industry in Northern New England is the subject of stream pollution.

BLAME IS SHARED

"We of the Brown Company at Berlin and Gorham, N. H. do

business on the Androscoggin river which has the unenviable reputation of being highly polluted," he said.

"I will say to you, however, that if there were not pulp and paper concerns on it, it would still be highly polluted, as is the Merrimac river in New Hampshire, with which I have had close association all my life."

Whittemore noted that no one company can afford to spend the amount of money necessary to take care of its industry waste "unless there is a sure guarantee that other wastes are going to be eradicated as well."

"While I *****re-clean Androscoggin river as a asset for the future, I believe it is a state and inter-state problem in which industries, power companies, local governments and individuals are all interested parties, with varying degrees of responsibility."

"I suggest we take a sensible view of the situation, recognize our joint responsibilities, and move through inter-state compact to take advantage of the possibilities to start the cleanup," he said. "I think the industries and power companies involved would gladly join with state and local officials toward that end if we can quit barking at each other and tackle the problem in its entirety."

1955

PRESS COMMENTS

Lewiston Evening Journal

April 11, 1955

DOG TRACKS, POLLUTION
AND HERRING ON THE DOCKET
FOR LEGISLATURE THIS WEEK

AUGUSTA (AP)- The Legislature's 15th week will be short on public hearings but long on arguments those hearings will produce. ***

WATER POLLUTION

Water pollution control measures, ranging from moderate to drastic, will be heard at 1:30 p.m. sources Committee, envisioning a great display of public interest, has prepared to resume the hearing Thursday if it can't be completed in one day.

Among the pollution bills to be heard are those:

Creating a Maine Rivers Authority, requiring clean-up of pollution and providing for issuance of revenue bonds and making of lease agreements with municipalities or corporations for building sewage treatment plants-Rep. Benier (D-Waterville) by request.

The clean waters act, prohibiting sewage or industrial pollution and allowing the municipalities to issue revenue bonds to pay for abatement-Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou).

Classifying 7,000 to 8,000 miles of waterways inspected by the Water Improvement Commission and revising the classifications and pollution licensing restrictions- Rep. Beal (D-Lisbon).

Increasing the number of public members of the Water Improvement Commission from 2 to 4- Rep. Williams (R-Hodgdon).

Permitting Maine to join in interstate water pollution control (Portland).

Requiring the WIC to recommend ways of abating pollution-Sen. Low (R-Rockland).

Creating a recess committee with a \$75,000 appropriation to study pollution and its effect and recommend to the 1957 Legislature ways of dealing with it-Rep. Pierce (R-Bucksport).

Lewiston Journal

April 13, 1955

BRIGGS DEFENDS 'CLEAN WATERS ACT',
CHARGES INDUSTRIAL GROUPS SEEK TO MAINTAIN POLLUTION

By Edward C. Schliek

AUGUSTA-Citizens who have the courage and vision to demand clean-up of the State's rivers and streams are opposing private interests and the "dawdling failure" of both municipal and industrial groups to develop sanitary means of waste disposal, Rep. James Briggs (R-Caribou) said today.

In a speech prepared in defense of his "clean waters act," which was the subject of the last important committee hearing at this session of the Legislature, Briggs said the State's waters are being polluted for the good of private enterprise.

The clean waters act, the most controversial of the several water pollution bills, has the backing of the Maine Fish and Game Association and the "Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control. This bill gives the water improvement commission extensive powers to demand pollution abatement and backs up the commission's judgement with fines and jail sentences for violators.

PROPHETS OF GLOOM

"It is disturbing to note that the unhappy reward of those who want to free our streams of needless pollution is the accusation that they are slighting the economic interests of the State," said Briggs.

"When the industries scream the way they do it is only because they see that they may have to use some of their profits to correct the abuses to our streams and rivers," he said.

With planned and sensible use of our streams we can have both clean water and expanded industrial development despite what the "prophets of gloom" say, Briggs added. The sewerage treatment is as much a utility service as water, electricity and gas and computed on a cost per family basis, will cost far less.

Briggs pointed out that many industries are highly dependent on clean water as a vital part of their industrial process. These industries which can't find clean water near the large population centers might be attracted to Maine if clean water were available in large quantities here.

"No miracles should be expected of this act because it will not accomplish cleanup over night," said Briggs. "But we believe that it is by actual test far superior to our present classification type law."

The clean-waters act is similar to the pollution law in effect in Pennsylvania where pollution abatement has become a reality, he explained.

"This act will get the job done," he said. "In 10 years, perhaps 20, under a good forthright commission, we will, I honestly believe, have reason to be proud that we had the fortitude to rise to the challenge for the ultimate good and everlasting benefit of the people of the State."

The Lewiston Daily Sun

April 14, 1955

POLLUTION BILLS RESULT IN LONG, STORMY SESSION

MEASURES ASSAILED BY INDUSTRY SPOKESMEN;
DEFENDED BY SCORES
DEBATE SIX BILLS

AUGUSTA, April 13-AP-The 97th Maine Legislature had its longest, most complex public hearing today-awordy exploration

of the perennial problem: What to do about stream pollution?

Complete with a two-hour showing of pictures, the marathon session kept a patient Natural Resources Committee on the House rostrum well into the night.

What complicated the proceedings was the fact that not one but six measures were under consideration. They ran all the way from a simple resolve creating a recess study committee to a bill—the toughest yet introduced on the subject—that would declare pollution "a public nuisance."

WARNS AGAINST MEASURE

The latter, offered by Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou), is entitled "An Act Providing for Clean Waters in Maine."

What the title should be, said opponent Theodore S. Gonya, is: "An Act Providing for Clean Racketbooks in Maine."

Speaking for the Oxford Paper Co., Gonya predicted the measure, if enforced, "would spell the end of industrial development and expansion; the disintegration and eventual death of most existing industries."

Briggs and some of the two dozen supporters he brought to the witness stand said that just isn't so.

"We have no fear or intention of driving industry from Maine," Dr. Norman R. Tufts told the committee.

MUCH OPPOSITION EXPECTED

The Auburn veterinarian, president of Citizens for Conservation and Pollution Control, Inc., added that the proponents expected a great deal of opposition because the Briggs bill "means a clean-up and anything that means a cleanup will be opposed by industry."

Briggs said that in pollution, experience elsewhere teaches that it is possible, to a degree, to "have your cake and eat it too."

With planned, sensible use of our waters we can have clean waterways and expanded industrial development, too," he said.

Gonya, first of the opponents to Briggs' bill, took the stand just before the committee recessed for supper.

"A HECKLING LAW"

He called Briggs' measure, taken largely from a law Pennsylvania enacted some years ago, "a heckling law" that ignores the "rights and best interests of all the people."

Gonya, favoring implementation of the existing law as the best alternative, told the Committee that the legislature, rather than the seven-man commission proposed by Briggs, should retain control of the anti-pollution control program.

Briggs' commission, he said would result in "government by order and decree."

"MAINE PAPER CURTAIN"

Dr. Tufts, claiming 90% of Maine pollution comes from pulp

and paper mill wastes, said:

"Russia has its iron curtain and China its bamboo curtain, but Maine has its paper curtain-new ideas just don't penetrate."

NUMEROUS SUPPORTERS

Briggs' other supporters included legislators, fish and game club spokesmen, representatives of the Maine Federation of Garden Clubs, and individual citizens. Besides the 24 who spoke, another dozen stood to record themselves in favor.

After supper and the two hours of pictures, objectors to the Briggs bill continued their case with president George Olmsted of the S.D. Warren Co. telling the committee that Maine should "think of attracting industry rather than repelling it, encouraging it rather than strangling it."

Edward H. Keith of Bangor, speaking for president Eugene H. Clapp, of the Penobscot Chemical Fibre Co., said it would cost 2½ to three million dollars for his firm to "remove all the polluting influences from the Penobscot River."

"Where we would get the money, I don't know," he added.

The Eastern Corp.'s vice president, T. Richard Probst, said he was "basically most disturbed by the philosophy that discharge of industrial wastes xxx is against public policy."

He said he would think that anything endangering the livelihood of our 1,300 employees and their families would be against public policy.

Pulp and paper executives were joined in their stand by several union spokesmen for their organized workers. And Thomas Grace of Rumford said the northeastern Oxford County Fish and Game Assn. took a view of the Briggs bill different from that of the Maine Fish and Game Assn. of which it is an affiliate.

Grace said stream pollution is not "detrimental to the health and welfare of our people."

In the Rumford area, he said, "there is no record of anyone with serious or fatal illness from pollution."

The Lewiston Daily Sun

April 15, 1955

NEARLY 12 HOURS OF ORATORY ON MAINE POLLUTION

SEVEN MEASURES TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT;
ASK WIDE RANGE OF ACTION

HEARING SET RECORD

AUGUSTA, April 14-AP-The longest committee hearing of this and probably any other Maine legislative session ended today after nearly 12 hours of oratory about water pollution.

The Natural Resources took under advisement seven measures, each proposing a different method of dealing with pollution, ranging from a "clean waters act" which would start clean-up at once to a resolve appropriating \$75,000 for a two-year recess committee study.

The hearing started at 1:30 p.m. yesterday, recessed for supper and halted for the night about 11. Resumed at 1:30 p.m. today, it finished at 5:30.

House Clerk Harvey R. Pease, veteran legislative official, said he could recall hearings lasting two consecutive afternoons but not one that also included an evening meeting.

DISCUSSION ON WATER COMM.

Today's discussion was on the recess committee resolve and a bill to strengthen the present Water Improvement Commission, most of its provisions originated by the WIC itself.

WIC Chairman Clifford G. Chase of Baring said some additions to the latter bill were made after it left the commission's hands, and didn't represent "the united thought of the commission."

Dr. Dean H. Fisher, Health and Welfare commissioner and WIC secretary, said the 1953 Legislature classified 6,000 to 7,000 miles of waterways and the WIC now proposes classifying about 7,000 more.

INDUSTRIES OPPOSE BILL

Opponents, most of them from industries, opposed parts of the bill which would tighten up the pollution licensing program of the present law. It would require any industry since 1945 to be licensed and forbid any additional or new type industrial or municipal pollution after July 1 this year.

Former Senate Pres. John F. Ward, lobbyist of the Great Northern Paper Co., said this would "place a 'keep out' fence around the state of Maine in respect to all new industries," and prevent existing ones from expanding. It also would be a hardship on municipalities, he said.

Industry is doing something about pollution, he said, telling of efforts Great Northern is making.

NO SOLUTION OVERNIGHT

"We cannot expect to solve our pollution problems overnight," he said.

He urged continuation of classification work and said industry will continue to help find the answer.

Elliot Perkins of Portland, speaking for St. Regis Paper Co. David Connelly of Hartland Tanning Co., Ted Leach of the Maine Starch Manufacturers and others also objected to the restriction on new or additional pollution.

"If we are looking for something to stagnate industrial expansion in the state of Maine, this provision will certainly accomplish that purpose," Perkins said.

The resolve by Rep. Pierce (R-Bucksport) to create a recess study committee was supported by Harold F. Schurle, Central Maine Power Co. vice president and chairman of the Maine Development Commission.

CITES HIGH COST

He said removal of pollution would cost hundreds of millions of dollars, but just how much nobody knows.

"I want to know what we are going to get on the basis of benefits versus cost," he said.

Richard B. Sanborn, counsel for the Maine Municipal Assn., said the cities and towns might benefit from such a study. He noted statements at the hearing that municipal sewage amounted to 3 or 4 percent of pollution in the rivers. He said it should be determined whether that amount was large enough to warrant the cost of removing it.

BRIGGS ONLY OPPONENT

The only opponent was Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou), sponsor of the clean waters act, heard yesterday.

Noting that Schnurle had displayed a study report on the Androscoggin River by the New England-New York Inter-Agency Committee, Briggs said he was glad to have the committee see how extensive a study had been made already.

"And that is only one of 19 volumes," Briggs concluded.

Lewiston Evening Journal

April 15, 1955

PEN NOTES

NEGATIVE APPROACH TO POLLUTION
BY INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES

By Faunce Pendexter

Since the pollution of Maine rivers has bearing upon their utilization for such sports as fishing, swimming and boating, some consideration in a sports column of Wednesday's lengthy pollution hearing at Augusta seems advisable.

Analysis of the hearing makes it plain that nothing has changed. Those favoring the taking of definite action in the direction of cleaner inland waterways and industrialists who oppose any strengthening of anti-pollution laws are as unyielding as ever in maintaining their respective views.

"An Act Providing for Clean Waters in Maine," the offering of Rep. James Briggs, Caribou Republican, proved the chief measure in contention. The reason for this is obvious. Briggs' bill is patterned after legislation passed some time ago in Pennsylvania. The so-called "Pennsylvania Law" is considered generally as a model one upon which to base anti-pollution legislation, presumably because it worked in a state whose rivers were clogged and besmirched by even worse pollution than that currently prevailing in Maine.

The experience of legislative sessions of the past dozen

years, for Maine citizens haven't been pollution "conscious" for any great length of time, has shown industries involved in pollution extremely sensitive to any bill that might produce results.

WEAK LAW

Present anti-pollution legislation is founded upon a classification system. On the basis of what it has accomplished, there is no indication that pollution has diminished from the potato starch waste-afflicted streams of Aroostook to the sulphite-gorged rivers, particularly the Androscoggin, elsewhere in Maine. There is reason to question whether or not the present law will suffice to keep pollution of Maine rivers from increasing.

The Briggs' bill has teeth in it. If enacted and enforced, pollution of streams in the state would be curtailed sharply. It would take years, even then, for the afflicted waterways to be restored to a relatively "clean" status, but in time the desired effect would result.

But many industrialists appeared in opposition at Augusta Wednesday. They charged the measure with being far too strict; claimed it would drive industry out of the state. The best idea of their stand on the matter is to be found in some of their remarks. Here are a few typical ones:

The Briggs' bill would "spell the end of industrial development and expansion; the disintegration and eventual death of most existing industries." (Theodore S. Gonya, Oxford Paper Co., Rumford).

Maine ought to "think of attracting industry rather than repelling it." (George Olmstead, S. D. Warren Co., Westbrook).

"Basically most disturbed by the philosophy that discharge of industrial wastes... is against public policy." (T. Richard Probst, Eastern Corp., Bangor).

ECONOMIC RUIN

Industry's representatives stressing the thought that strict anti-pollution control would create economic havoc in Maine. They emphasized the likelihood of industry being forced to leave the state, which of course would mean the loss of jobs for many people.

This "scare" theory has worked out pretty well for industry. No pollution law with a real bite has been enacted yet. The fact remains, however, that in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Rhode Island and other states where strict pollution laws have been enacted, industries have not moved; economic collapse has not occurred. So why should it happen in Maine? Would Maine industrialists admit themselves less competent to cope with the requirements of a constructive pollution law than their fellows in other states who already have passed this hurdle?

No thinking Maine citizen wishes to hurt Maine industry. No thinking Maine citizen would approve legislation which would drive Maine industries from the state.

But thinking Maine citizens are asking "why" Maine industries cannot clean up when industries in other states have done

so. These out-of-state industries had to be forced to stop polluting streams in their respective states.

VOLUNTARY CLEAN UP

The people of Maine would like to see those industries which have been polluting Maine waters work out a plan for the elimination of such pollution. They would like to hear some constructive suggestions outlining such a plan from industrial representatives.

Instead, there has been nothing except a negative approach. Fear has been the banner under which polluting industries have marched. "nothing can be done" has been their motto. Not even a willingness to make a beginning has been expressed.

The time is coming when our industries will be forced to stop polluting Maine waterways. It would be far better if this could be accomplished on a voluntary basis, but the industrial representatives obviously have been charged with the duty of playing a delaying game. The longer industry stalls, the more stringent the eventual anti-pollution law.

There is still time for Maine industries involved in polluting our rivers to offer a constructive program to clean up the streams. But they had better hurry up. As Abraham Lincoln so wisely said: "You can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Lewiston Evening Journal

April 15, 1955

TURN DOWN BILL CREATING MAINE RIVERS AUTHORITY

Augusta AP-The legislative Natural Resources Committee turned down today a bill creating a Maine Rivers Authority to handle the pollution problem.

It was one of seven pollution measures heard successively Wednesday and yesterday in what probably was the longest public hearing in Maine legislative history.

Rep. Bernier (D-Waterville) filed the Rivers Authority measure at the request of Atty. Jerome Daviau of Waterville, who said it was aimed at abatement, rather than eradication of pollution.

Opponents claimed the Authority would be a "sort of czar over Maine rivers" and the bill was unsound in theory.

Daviau would empower the authority to build or lend money for construction of industrial and municipal waste treatment and disposal plants.

His bill also would forbid industries from increasing or adding new pollution without treating it.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

April 16, 1955

EDITORIAL

POLLUTION IS IMPORTANT

The fact that the legislative Natural Resources committee

at Augusta set a record this week in two days of hearings on a number of anti-pollution bills testifies to the importance of the subject.

Among its many attractions Maine has, without doubt, some of the dirtiest rivers in the country. It has by far the most polluted rivers in New England. The waste matter carried by the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers, to select only these two, is equal to that discharged by a population of millions of people. All of which points up to the fact that most of the pollution is not due to what we commonly call sewage, but industrial wastes from the State's big paper and pulp mills.

So there is no question that a serious problem exists, that its solution does not require the construction of expensive municipal sewage-treatment plants, and that the remedy lies in abatement on the part of industries dumping waste matter into streams and rivers.

* * *

Here, to advance a step, we get to the conflicting philosophies represented at the hearing. We have, on the one side, many groups and organizations of sincere, dedicated people, like the fish and game associations, who insist that pollution is a nuisance, and furthermore an economic handicap, that should be and can be stopped.

On the other hand, we have industrialists, utility representatives, and municipal spokesmen who, while they admit our rivers are badly polluted, look upon this as a necessary evil. It is their tacit contention that the rivers were put there as a handy facility in carrying off industrial and other waste. And they propose to do nothing about it except "study" a subject that has already been studied to death.

The economic interests involved go much farther, moreover, than their claim of a vested right innusing Maine's rivers as industrial sewers. They say that if the rivers are cleaned up the State would be unattractive to new industry, that existing industries would not expand, that business here will "stagnate", that the clean-up will cost "hundreds of millions", and to quote the most extreme spokesman, that anti-pollution enforcement "would spell...the disintegration and eventual death of most existing industries."

That is pure poppycock, and the industry spokesmen know it. Other States have cleaned up their rivers, and profited by it. And what others have done, Maine can do. Here is a subject on which the Legislature should vote with courage and foresight, unless it wishes Maine to retain its disgraceful reputation as a wholesale polluter of rivers and streams.

Lewiston Evening Journal

April 21, 1955

RECESS STUDY OF POLLUTION BILL APPROVED

AUGUSTA AP-A resolve turning Maine's stream pollution problem over to a recess study committee won the approval of the legislative Natural Resources Committee today.

Rep. Pierce's (R-Bucksport) proposal to let the study committee determine a practical solution to the problem-and the cost-was the mildest of seven anti-pollution measures heard by Natural Resources more than a week ago in which probably was the longest public hearing in legislative history.

With 12 hours of actual testimony, the hearing ran from 1:30 p.m. until 11 p.m. one day and all the next afternoon.

The committee rejected Sen. Low's (R-Rockland) bill requiring the State Water Improvement Commission file biennial reports to the Legislature, reporting the names of industries and municipalities responsible for pollution and whatever progress they had made in eradicating it.

The Low bill also would require reports from every municipality and industry to the WIC showing their reductions, if any, in existing pollution.

Already turned down was Rep. Bernier's (R-Waterville) proposal to set up a Maine Rivers Authority with power to enforce anti-pollution measures and to build or lend money for the construction of waste treatment and disposal plants.

Still to be reported is the stiffest of the anti-pollution bill-Rep. Briggs' (R-Caribou) clean waters measure. This would declare pollution to be a public nuisance and permit the WIC to set a time limit for effective abatement.

Lewiston Evening Journal

April 21, 1955

URGES MEETING WATER POLLUTION
PROBLEM WITH TECHNOLOGICAL
RATHER THAN LEGAL TALENT

AUGUSTA AP - Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou) said today that as long as industries and municipalities meet the water pollution problem with "legal talent rather than technological talent, progress in cleaning up our deplorably contaminated public waters will indeed be slow."

"The piddling amounts which they loudly proclaim to have spent studying the problem are in fact testimony of their continued approach from a point of view of how much profit they can make on the waste, instead of primarily how much they can do to keep their wastes out of our waters," Briggs told the Woman's Legislative Council.

He said he is "ashamed" of the lack of progress by municipalities in abating pollution and "more ashamed still of their opposition through their statewide organization to any progressive abatement legislation. They do not represent the true thinking of many of their individual citizens x x x."

He urged his listeners to support those seeking to control pollution.

Briggs is the sponsor of a "clean waters act," one of the seven pollution control bills the Natural Resources Committee considered in a 12-hour public hearing last week. The committee has not reported on his bill.

The bill, opposed by industry and municipal lobbyists, would declare pollution a public nuisance and allow the Water Improvement Commission to set a time limit for cleanup.

The Lewiston Evening Journal

April 29, 1955

'CLEAN WATERS' BILL
REJECTED BY COMMITTEE

AUGUSTA AP-The legislative Natural Resources Committee rejected today the strictest of seven stream pollution bills it considered and came up with two redrafts of another.

The House tabled the reports.

Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou) "clean waters" bill was reported "ought not to pass," and the committee made numerous changes in Rep. Beal's (D-Lisbon) measure revising existing pollution law.

Present law requires a license for any new source of sewage, municipal or industrial, but excepts sources existing when the 1953 law took effect.

Beal's bill would have restricted the exemption privilege to sources existing prior to Aug. 1, 1945 and struck out the word "new." The redraft puts "new" back and changes the cut-off date to Sept. 1, 1955.

The committee also removed a Beal provision that any firm or municipality would need a license to increase pollution sharply or to put into any stream a different type of waste than in the year preceding July 1, 1955.

Beal had proposed to designate the Health and Welfare Dept. as receiving agent for any federal anti-pollution money. The redraft designated the Water Improvement Commission.

Briggs' measure would have declared pollution a public nuisance. The Water Improvement Commission could set a time limit for abatement by industry or municipalities. Violators could be punished with fines up to \$1,000 a day.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

May 2, 1955

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAINE'S DIRTY RIVERS

To the Editor:

Under the title of "Pollution is Important," one of the finest editorials ever presented appeared in a recent edition of The Sun.

Your statements were all too true. Maine has the dirtiest rivers in New England, nothing is being actually done about it, but study and stall, and the industries are by far the major and determined offenders. If we are to believe these hired spokesmen, any attempt to actually do anything about it will result in economic ruin-Maine industry thereby tacitly admits that it considers our rivers to be their private sewers, and also that these same industries are so backward that they are unable to cope with the situation as is being done in most other States. Therefore they spend huge sums to buy glib spokesmen to convince the

Legislature and the people that clean-up means ruin, and that we must slide slide steadily backward under a "study and stall" set-up.

You label these untrue claims by paid industrial spokesmen as "poppycock," which tags their whole operation with the utmost accuracy. Actual facts and figures are available to prove it. Ed. Schlick's excellent reporting in his articles on river pollution back up these facts. The shameful position of industry in this matter is steadily becoming more untenable. The Journal, too, had a fine article by Faunce Pendexter, "Negative Approach to Pollution by Industrial Representatives," in which he aptly points out in a quote of Abraham Lincoln that: "You can't fool all of the people all of the time." Therefore, the management of the Sun-Journal, as well as the writers mentioned, is to be congratulated and commended for its fearless publication of the true facts regarding our shameful pollution and those who selfishly fight against the rights of the people for clean waters, and adequate industrial and recreational growth that would result from following the lead of other states that are doing the job.

Norman R. Tufts V.M.D.

Auburn, Me.
April 28, 1955

The Lewiston Daily Sun

May 4, 1955

PULP MILL WASTE
STUDIED BY MAINE

ORONO, May 4 AP-The University of Maine is going to make tests soon to try to cut down the river polluting effects of pulp mill waste and to find ways of making useful by-products of the waste.

Dean Ashley S. Campbell, head of the College of Technology, said today that the stream improvement study is supported by the National Council for Stream Improvement. The project was initiated at Maine in 1954.

Lewiston Evening Journal

May 6, 1955

EDITORIAL
(in part)

POLLUTION

Correction of pollution in Maine inland waters must be carefully undertaken-economic phases judiciously considered-and the effect on industry, communities and family incomes considered.

The Briggs' "clean waters act", labelled the "most drastic anti-pollution measure" ever offered in Maine Legislature, did not meet the general specifications listed above.

The House by defeating the bill 82-42(25 were absent) indicates that the Legislature is sensitive to the consequences of a tough police law on pollution.

Also, it was shown that there is growing anxiety over water pollution; that industry and municipalities are warned rigid legislation could be acceptable to a Legislature in a few years unless immediate voluntary steps are taken for a clean-up.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

May 6, 1955

ANTI-POLLUTION
BILL IS KILLED
IN MAINE HOUSE

Vote 82 to 42 for Indefinite Postponement
of Briggs' "Clean Waters Act"-Rep. Bowie,
Durham, Says duPont Industry Lost Because
of Dirty Androscoggin-Briggs "Confused"

AUGUSTA, May 5 (AP)-The House voted today to kill the Briggs "clean waters act"-the most drastic anti-pollution measure yet offered a Maine Legislature.

The roll-call was 82 for and 42 against indefinite postponement, with 25 representatives absent. The measure goes into the Senate tomorrow.

Twenty-three representatives spoke in a debate that lasted nearly two hours. Their arguments echoed, to a great extent, those heard by the Natural Resources Committee in its record hearing on the Briggs and a half a dozen other pollution bills last month.

BRIGGS OFFERS AMENDMENT

Opening the debate, Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou) offered to meet a major objection to his bill-that it tries to do too much in too little time by submitting an amendment defining its intent.

The amendment portrayed the measure as "a means for gradual, progressive abatement" of the pollution problem and directed the Water Improvement Commission to use it moderately so that "no person or municipality suffer grave or irreparable injury."

POLLUTION "PUBLIC NUISANCE"

Briggs' measure would make pollution a "public nuisance," empower the WIC to set a two-year limit in which its control measures must be taken and authorize fines of up to \$1000 a day for willful violators.

It would apply both to industrial waste pollution and that caused by municipal sewage.

Briggs called pollution "a creeping paralysis" amounting to "a debt against nature" which the state has the legal and moral responsibility to pay by effective control.

He said industry's lobbyists profess to believe in abatement but oppose any bill that would accomplish anything.

"God himself, in all his wisdom, couldn't write a bill they'd approve," he added.

"Industry knows we don't expect miracles from them under the clean water act. x x x We know they would have to spend some of their profits for abatement."

10 BENEFITS FROM CLEANUP

He listed 10 benefits from a clean-up. They included better health; savings in treatment of both drinking and industrial water; new industries; greater real estate values along rivers; better commercial and sports fishing; greater recreational advantages.

Rep. Williams (R-Hodgdon) told of the paper industry's attempts to solve pollution through research. He said he doesn't want to see the present classification law "thrown out of the window" and asked that Briggs's bill be indefinitely postponed.

Sanford's Rep. Vallyely (D) told of the town's efforts to rehabilitate after the "catastrophe" of losing its major industry and pleaded:

"Please don't bring any more obstacles for us to hurdle."

He said any new industry would be greeted in Sanford with "open arms, even if they had to discharge wastes into the water in order to operate."

Rep. Bowie (R-Durham) contended that when industries say they have to dump their industrial wastes "it's a lot of hogwash-it's the easy way out."

Because the Androscoggin's water is so dirty, Bowie said, his town lost a new industry-a branch of the duPont enterprises that had to have clean water.

"TREMENDOUS BARRIER"

Rep. Hanson (R-Gardiner) said the Briggs measure, by making pollution a public nuisance would be a "tremendous barrier" to industrial expansion. Existing industries would be outlawed, he said, and "how would you get new ones?"

In a brief rebuttal, Briggs said his own reaction to the opposition speaker was:

"Gee whiz, it certainly is difficult for a fellow like me to understand how difficult it is for some of you to understand the benefits to be received."

POLLUTION BILL ROLLCALL

AUGUSTA, May 5 (AP)- Here is the roll call vote by which Rep. Briggs' (R-Caribou) "clean waters act" was indefinitely postponed today in the House, 82-42:

Republicans for indefinite postponement (against the bill)-62.

Alden, Allen, Anderson, Bean, Bibber, Blanchard, Brewster, Brown of Baileyville, Carter of Etna, Carter of Newport, Caswell, Charles, Childs, Col, Cook, Crockett, Edgar, Evans, Ferguson, Files, Flynn, Foster, Fuller of So. Portland, Getchell, Gilmartin.

Hancock, Hanson, Harnden, Hatfield, Haughn, Henry, Higgins, Jennings, Jones, Lindsay, Lord, Mann, Martin of W. Gardiner, McCluskey, Michaud, Needham, Palmeto, Pierce, Pike, Quinn, Roberts of Brooklin, Ross of Bath, Sanborn, Seaward, Shaw, Skolfield, Stanwood, Staples, Storm, Tarbox, Thomas, Wade, Wadleigh, Willey, Williams and Woodsworth.

Democrats for-20

Babineau, Beal, Bernier, Cianchette, Cormier, Cote of Lewiston, Couture of Lewiston, Coyne, Davis of Westbrook, Dostie, Edwards, Lamb, Latno, Letourneau, Martin of Eagle Lake, Nadeau, Porell, Vallyely, Walls and Walsh.

Republicans against (for the bill)-39

Albert, Baird, Bowie, Briggs, Brockway, Browne of Bangor, Call, Cates, Christie, Couture of Bath, Curtis, Davis of Calais, Dickler, Dunn, Earles, Foss, Gardner, Greenleaf, Jacobs, Lawry, Maxwell, McGlaufflin, Olpe, Osborne, Reed, Reynolds, Rich, Roberts of Dexter.

Rogerson, Ross of Brownville, Roundy, Sanford, Soule, Stanley of Bangor, Stanley of Hampden, Stilphen, Tetman, Walter and Winchenpaw.

Democrats against-3

Cyr, Dudley and Duquette.

Republicans absent-15

Antheine, Bragdon, Denbow, Finemore, Fuller of China, Greene, Hilton, Howard, Jack, Kimball, Knight, Libby, Potter, Pullen and Whiting.

Democrats absent-10

Cote of Madison, Courtois, Dumais, Elwell, Jacques, Kinch, MacDonald, Madore, Malenfant and Sansoucy.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

May 7, 1956

EDITORIAL (part)

NOT A LOST CAUSE

Some people, observing the 82-42 vote which the Maine House of Representatives killed the Briggs "clean waters" act on Thursday, might conclude they had witnessed the final, crushing blow to another lost cause.

But that is not so.

The effort to halt stream pollution in this State is no more of a lost cause, by virtue of this defeat, than were the many preliminary defeats before anti-pollution was finally enacted in other States. The pattern has been the same everywhere-powerful lobbies striving to block anti-pollution legislation, but steadily losing ground and eventually suffering defeat through the efforts of earnest, far-sighted individuals and groups, and the irresistible force of a growing public opinion.

We believe that is what will happen here. Rep. Briggs secured 42 votes against indefinite postponement, a third of those voting on the motion, and representative of nearly a quarter of the State's population. The committee hearing itself set a record for length. Able spokesmen demolished the emotional, fear-filled arguments of the lobbyists. To a greater extent than ever before, people are becoming aroused against the dirtying of our beautiful rivers and streams, and they will be heard and heeded.

So this is no lost cause. Some day Maine will have its rivers cleansed, and without injuring existing industry either. Pollution-free streams will attract instead of repel industry; they will increase real estate values and make the State the haven of many more tourists than now visit here. Then we will look back, and

wonder how law-makers, dedicated to the well-being and progress of their State and its citizens, could have voted as they did day before yesterday.

HEART CUT OUT OF POLLUTION
BILL SAYS CARIBOU LAWMAKER

AUGUSTA - Representative James Briggs (R-Caribou) charged today that the heart has been cut out of the pollution bill backed by the Democratic Administration.

"The changes made in this bill in committee killed the whole pollution law now on the books," said Briggs. "The people of Maine are not getting a fair shake at all and the lobbyists have the gall to run around the halls here and try to get representatives to speak for this bill."

The date has been changed in the bill filed by Representative Raymond C. Beal (D-Lisbon) so that industries won't need licenses to dump new pollution as long as they are established before Sept. 1, 1955.

Industries formerly needed licenses for new pollution unless they were in operation before 1945.

"This gives anyone who wants to scratch around a little before this September a chance to get under the pollution blanket," said Briggs.

Briggs, sponsor of the clean waters act which was defeated last week, said he will attempt to block the committee re-draft and substitute the original bill.

"The re-draft of this bill is an attempt to put something over on the people of Maine during the last minute hurry of the Legislature declared Briggs. "The Legislative Research Committee was concerned over the increasing pollution load in our rivers. This bill has been fixed up to allow the industries to put as much pollution as they want in the rivers."

Briggs also slammed an amendment to the bill which has been filed by Rep. John Reed (R-Fort Fairfield). Reed's amendment declassifies several rivers in Arcoostook County.

"There should be no political battling and favoritism in the classification of Maine rivers," said Briggs. He added he would fight the amendment because it is just a "shield" for starch industries that could abate pollution but won't do it.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

May 12, 1955

HOUSE RENEWS SKIRMISHING
IN POLLUTION WAR

Restores Teeth to one Bill Then Pulls Out;
Another Try Today

HUGE COST CITED

AUGUSTA, May 11 (AP) - In another skirmish of the stream pollution war, the House reversed itself within a few minutes today.

It voted for, and then against, a proposal by Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou) to restore teeth that the Natural Resources Committee had extracted from Rep. Beal's (D-Lisbon) bill strengthening the state's current pollution abatement program.

Briggs authored the more drastic "clean waters act" that went down to defeat last week.

BEAL LAW COMES UP TODAY

He said he'd try again to get the amendment in when the Beal bill comes up for third reading tomorrow.

Current law requires licensing of any new sources of pollution but provides that licenses granted automatically to industrial plants and municipalities existing "heretofore."

Beal had stricken out the word "new" and changed "heretofore" to read "established prior to Aug. 1, 1945." The committee put "new" back into the bill and set the cut-off date at Sept. 1, 1955.

The Briggs amendment also would restore to the bill a requirement for licensing if a polluter increased the amount or changed the type of pollution discharged in the year preceeding July 1, 1955.

AMENDMENT RECONSIDERED

Briggs said Beal's measure came out of committee "without a heart and soul," but Rep. Ferguson (R-Hanover) said the committee "did a fine job" and asked indefinite postponement of the amendment.

The House voted 58-44 against Ferguson and the amendment was adopted, only to be reconsidered at the request of Rep. MacDonald (D-Rumford).

MacDonald said it would cost Rumford three million dollars to replace its sewers and said of the smell from the Oxford Paper Co. wastes:

"We'd rather have the smell and a payroll than no smell and no payroll."

Rep. Walsh (D-Brunswick) said his town is spending \$750,000 for new sewers and has been trying to get a sewage disposal plant for seven years. It is "still far from reaching that goal," he said.

Rep. Martin (R-W. Gardiner) again moved indefinite postponement of the amendment and was upheld, 80-51.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

May 13, 1955

POLLUTION BILL AGAIN REVISED IN THE HOUSE

Adopt Amendments So Law Not Weakened by Cutoff Dates

NEAR ENACTMENT

AUGUSTA, May 12 AP-Two amendments designed to replace some teeth in Natural Resources Committee pulled from a water pollution control bill, were adopted today by the House after another lengthy debate on purifying Maine waters.

Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou), defeated champion of the session's

most stringent pollution control measure, told the House the redrafted bill before them today would weaken the present law.

"It would make legal new pollution sources created since 1945," he said. "I can't believe it is the intent of this branch that present water pollution laws should be weakened."

Rep. Beal (D-Lisbon), sponsor of the bill, originally proposed requiring licensing of all pollution sources created since 1945. The redraft would make the cutoff date Sept. 1, 1955.

Rep. Williams (R-Hodgdon) said the committee felt it was "not fair to new industries to make them abide by a law dated back 10 years." He said the group thought it might deter new industries from coming into Maine.

The bill would permit some cleanup progress, he said.

BEAL AGREES TO REDRAFT

Beal said he agreed to the redraft because he "didn't want to jeopardize industrial progress along our major rivers." It would make progress "without danger to municipalities or industry," he said.

Rep. McGlaflin (R-Portland) said: "I don't believe we should encourage new industries to come to Maine and pollute our waters."

Rep. Needham (R-Orono) said he was told by a sanitary engineer licenses for new pollution should be no later than Sept. 1, 1953.

And the House adopted an amendment by Rep. Totman (R-Bangor) to that effect.

WOULD NULLIFY SAWDUST LAW

Then Briggs told the House the bill would nullify the law against dumping sawdust into streams and ponds.

"Here is another example x x x of how the pending bill would set back the clock," he said.

The House went along with his motion to amend that proposed change out of the bill and passed the measure to be engrossed-one step short of enactment.

Lewiston Evening Journal

May 19, 1955

HOUSE DEFEATS AMENDMENT TO DEFER UPGRADING OF FEW AROOSTOOK COUNTY STREAMS

AUGUSTA AP-The chief House foe of water pollution, Rep. Briggs (R-Caribou) won a minor victory today with defeat of an amendment to defer upgrading of a few Aroostook county streams.

The amendment was offered by Rep. Reed (R-Fort Fairfield). Reed said upgrading the streams to a B1 classification would force five potato strach factories to spend \$75,000 each for pollution control.

The other 17 factories in the county wouldn't have to do this immediately, he said, and the result would be discrimination against the five. The amendment would have suspended the upgrading two years and the operators had promised to clean up their factory waste in that time.

Briggs said starch factories have done "a great deal of discriminating" against the public over many years.

"If we start here to open the door, when some classification established at a public hearing doesn't satisfy some mill or polluters on a stream, we will establish a precedent under which other polluters will come in and ask you to make it easier on them," he said.

Rep. Curtis (R-Bowdoinham) said at the end of extended debate:

"It is amusing to me to hear people who say they want to clean up the waters oppose what little we have done."

The House voted 55-42 to kill Reed's amendment.

Briggs was sponsor of the drastic "clean waters act" which the Legislature has killed. It would have forced industry and municipalities to stop pollution waters on demand of the Water Improvement Commission.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

May 20, 1955

2 ANTI-POLLUTION BILLS IN SENATE

Amendment Attached to One Like Plan House Defeated

AUGUSTA, May 19 (AP) - Two House-approved anti-pollution bills were accepted by the Senate to day and passed to be engrossed.

But the Senate tacked on an amendment to one similar to an amendment the House defeated, suspending upgrading of three Aroostook county streams for the benefit of some potato starch factories. The Senate amendment suspends the stream improvement one year. The defeated House amendment would have given the factories two years to reduce their pollution discharge.

As in the House earlier, the proposed change produced complaints from anti-pollution forces.

"Every time we try to take a step, no matter how small, someone is willing to put a trig in the way," said Sen. Butler (R-Farmington), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

"There's got to be a beginning somewhere. Heaven knows we've been slow enough in acknowledging that which we've got to face sometime."

"Sen. Collins (R-Caribou), who presented the amendment, said he was "thoroughly in accord with the principle" of cutting pollution, but that the bill as written would work a hardship on an industry that already has spent a lot of money "trying to clean their own house."

The bills, with or without amendment, would classify 6,000 to 7,000 miles of waterways, most of them in class B2 or higher, and tighten in some respects the laws governing licensing of industries and municipalities to discharge wastes.

The Senate tossed out a joint order which would have assigned anew to the Legislative Research Committee the job of surveying the roadside and public beach litter problem. The assignment was a recommendation of a conference committee that failed to agree on a bill taxing non-returnable beer two cents each. The House favored the bill, the Senate opposed it.

Sen. Low (R-Rockland), a member of the 1953-54 Research Committee, told his colleagues.

"We did a lot of work on bottle litter. We didn't get down to pork chops or other refuse that might be thrown along the roads, but we did do a lot of work on the bottle problem.

"We made a report which nobody paid any attention to. I don't feel another study would be very productive."

The Senate voted for his indefinite postponement motion.

Lewiston Evening Journal

May 20, 1955

SENATE KILLS RECESS STUDY OF POLLUTION

AUGUSTA AP - The Senate voted today to kill a proposed \$75,000 recess study of Maine's vexing stream pollution problem.

The House had adopted Rep. Pierce's R-Bucksport resolve, which implemented a suggestion of the Legislative Research Committee.

Sen. Butler R-Farmington, chairman of the National Resources Committee, said the state already had adopted a classification system as a means of combatting pollution and he could see no point in study searching for another means.

His indefinite postponement motion was adopted without debate.

Lewiston Evening Journal

May 21, 1955

TWO WATER POLLUTION BILLS ENACTED

AUGUSTA AP-Two administration bills to tighten control of water pollution were enacted in amended form today and sent to Gov. Muskie.

One bill classifies some 6,000 miles of Maine rivers, streams and ponds according to recommendations of the Water Improvement Commission, including all "great ponds" of 10 acres or more under class B1, suitable for swimming, boating and drinking when properly treated.

The other measure makes some changes in provisions for licensing discharge of municipal and industrial waste but no major advances in the pollution control fight.

* * * * *

WINTER PLANS A LARGE PARK

Has Mile Frontage On
Androscoggin River
In Lewiston

Declares Citizens To Have Free
Use of Area; Will Build
Horse Arena

By Richard Kisonak

Plans for a gigantic, tree-spotted community park along the shores of the Androscoggin River in Lewiston were announced last night by a prominent Auburn resident.

Frank W. Winter of 29 Second St., president and treasurer of Winter Scientific Institutions, said the grounds of the park will cover approximately 100 acres of land owned by the institution. The entire project, which, he said, is already under way, will cost several thousands of dollars.

PLANS ARENA

Winter said the park will house a mammoth arena in which horse exhibitions will be staged which will be able to accommodate thousands of spectators.

To be named the "Winter Memorial Park," it will be open free of charge to the public, said Winter.

The park will include about one mile of frontage on the shore of the Androscoggin River and numerous picnic facilities will be installed, he said.

The park will be cleared on land located opposite Montello Street, and between Riverside Cemetery and Switzerland Terrace. Winter offered a section of this same land to Lewiston two years ago for use as a municipal dump and the offer was turned down.

Winter said the park will be operated as part of the Winter Scientific Institutions. Use of the facilities there would be free of charge. He said fees would be charged for horse shows staged in the arena.

STEEL ORDERED

Steel tresses for the giant arena have already been ordered, said Winter. Land on which it will be constructed is now cleared and the building is expected to be completed by winter.

Three companies have transported bulldozers to the location as the clearing work continues. He said trails for horse riding are included in his plans; also for winter sleigh riding.

Winter said a forestry school also will be conducted on the premises, purchased 56 years ago.

The park, according to Winter, will complete a dream he has carried many years. He did not indicate when the entire project would be finished.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

July 7, 1955

EMPTY CANALS AND HEAT BLAMED FOR SULFITE ODORS FROM RIVER

More water flowing over the falls, a lengthy hot spell and tepid water have caused a slight increase of the sulfite odor from the Androscoggin River near the North Bridge and these factors plus sewage waste below the South Bridge account for the odor in that area, explained Dr. Walter A. Lawrance last night.

Unpredictability of prolonged hot weather is the main thing preventing perfect control of the sulfite odors, caused by the discharge of waste products into the river by pulp and paper mills, said Dr. Lawrance, Bates College chemistry professor and administrator of the Androscoggin River pollution control by decree of the State Supreme Court in 1948 in a law suit by the State against the paper manufacturers.

The odor intensity is far below the strength several years ago and no hydrogen sulfide, which emitted worse odors and even damaged the paint on houses, has been produced in the river for several years, he said.

Pollution of the river is controlled two ways, declared Dr. Lawrance. One is by dumping nitrates into the water and the other is by reducing production at the mills on the river. Tremendously heavy cuts in production at the plants were made during the past week in the extremely hot weather, he said.

High temperatures help intensify the odors and closing of the Lewiston textile mills means more water flows over the falls in the river instead of through the canal. These two factors are important in the increase of the odor.

Also important is the temperature of the water itself. Dr. Lawrance explained the river water yesterday reached its maximum for the summer at 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Although the temperature usually averages about 74 degrees, it hits its peak at the end of the warm spell. Less water in the river also influences the odor.

Dr. Lawrance and his crew, which works constantly from June through September on the river odors, are keeping a close watch and are improving their controls constantly, he said.

Inability to predict the duration of hot spells makes complete control of the river odors difficult, declared Dr. Lawrance, but weather forecasters are constantly improving and "we are learning more and more about the average weather conditions and the odors won't be as bad again as in past years."

Although not noticeable above the North Bridge, the raw sewage dumped into the river below South Bridge helps increase the river pollution and odors downstream, he said.

PRESS COMMENTS

JULY 1955

The Lewiston Daily Sun

July 5, 1955

RIVER AGAIN KICKS
UP FAMILIAR SMELL

The Androscoggin River stench has been noticeable the past few days, apparently being raised by the spell of hot weather that has been prevailing the past week.

The smell is not as acrid as it was in the days before the river was treated with a special solution, and is barely evident until carried by the winds.

The stench, created by dumping of waste matter into the river, has been controlled the past few years by a special work force headed by Dr. Walter A. Lawrance of Bates College.

Lewiston Evening Journal

July 5, 1955

RIVER ODORS
WITH US AGAIN

That smell's back...

The Androscoggin River, once a smelly old giant of a waterway, but in recent years deodorized by a nitrate mixture dumped into it during hot spells, has begun acting up again during the current heat wave.

Riverside residents, most of them in Auburn, complain of increasing odors.

Dr. Walter A. Lawrance of Bates College, in charge of the river purification program, could not be reached today for an explanation. The smell is caused by dumping of wastes into the river, and the nitrates with which the waters have been treated in past years adds oxygen to the stream, "air-conditioning" it.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

July 18, 1955

ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER STENCH
HANGS HEAVILY OVER CITIES

The Androscoggin River stench hung heavily over the Twin Cities yesterday afternoon and evening and resulted in several

complaints by residents.

The canals also contributed to the odor. With the mills inoperative over the week end, the canals were not running, thus allowing the hot sun to bake the smelly beds of the waterways and stir up the stench.

The odor, created by reduction of the oxygen content of the water by the activity of waste dumped into the river, has been more prevalent this year because of the long spell of hot weather. The warming of the river water by the sun slows the effects of chemicals fed the river to keep down the stench.

The stench, observers said, was stronger in Lewiston than Auburn last night because of a breeze from the west.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

July 20, 1955

EXPENSIVE TO
BATTLE STENCH

Rivermaster Says About
\$1,000 Spent on the
Job Each Day

Dr. Lawrance Says Plants
Depositing Less Waste in
Androscoggin

By Richard Kisonak

About \$1,000 is being spent each day in an effort to relieve the disagreeable stench of the lengthy, warmed-up Androscoggin River.

Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, appointed rivermaster in 1947 under a Maine Supreme Court decree is personally supervising the task of dumping some 15 tons of sodium nitrate into the river daily in a battle against waste and warm weather.

Dr. Lawrance, a Bates College professor, said last night the cost of his operations run to approximately \$1,000 each day.

He said much improvement has been made in battling the foul river smell but that the unusually long period of hot weather is responsible for the bad odors of recent days. "It's the longest stretch of hot weather we've had in a long time," Dr. Lawrance said.

LESS OXYGEN

The foul odors circulate about some cities and towns lining the river because of a reduction in the oxygen content of the river water. This loss of the oxygen is created by the activity of waste materials dumped into the river.

When the weather gets real hot, as it was during the recent heat wave, the river will let go with a terrific odor, said Dr.

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260
Lawrance. The warmer water slows down the effects of the sodium nitrate used to keep down the stench.

Cost of obtaining the sodium nitrate and depositing it into the Androscoggin River is shared by the industrial plants using the river, said Dr. Lawrance. And in an effort to relieve the situation, the plants have reduced the production of waste materials swallowed up by the river.

LARGE CUTS

Dr. Lawrance said that normal production of waste materials had been decreased to such an extent by the week ending June 26 that the waste deposit total was reduced to 4,417 tons.

A week later it had been lowered to 2,787 tons by the mills. Although final figures are not available for the week ending last Sunday, the rivermaster estimated the total waste deposit will have dropped to 2,150 tons.

Even further decreases are to come, he said. The mills have been told to cut down to 2,000 tons in waste material by the end of this week and a further drop to about 1,600 tons is expected soon said Dr. Lawrance.

The sodium nitrate is dumped into the river between Turner Center and the Gulf Island Dam, he reported. It is shipped here from various parts of the country and some has come from as far away as South America.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

July 25, 1955

RAIN SNAPS RECORD HEAT WAVE BUT RIVER STENCH INCREASES

Some relief from the record shattering heat of Saturday came yesterday morning with a brief but heavy rain. While the heat wave was broken, the stench of the Androscoggin River was strong yesterday and was noticeable in about all the downtown sections of the Twin Cities.

The river flow increased somewhat during the day judging from the amount of water coming over the falls and it is believed this was responsible for the river smell.

Despite the record shattering 94-degree heat on Saturday the river odor was not noticeable. The 94-degree-reading broke by one degree the 93-degree prior record which had stood for the date since 1900. It also tied the season's peak of 94, set July 9.

Sunday morning's rainfall totalled 0.22 inches, making it the third time that any appreciable amount has fallen so far this month. The other occasions were on July 6 and 16. Two thundershowers threatened Saturday afternoon and night but skirted around the Lewiston-Auburn area.

The record temperature of Saturday afternoon was blamed for a drop in the number of shoppers out seeking Dollar Day bargains. Good crowds were on the streets in the forenoon but in the afternoon business was relatively quiet.

Highest temperature reading for Sunday was 80 degrees at 5 p.m. and the overnight low was 70 degrees at 7 a.m. On Saturday, the new 94-degree record was set at 2 and 3 p.m., and low for the day was 67 degrees at 3 a.m.

Previous records for July 23 were a high 93-degrees in 1900 and a low 52-degrees in 1905. For July 24, the record is 94 degrees marked in 1900 and in 1941, and a low of 50 degrees in 1905.

Actually the rain of Sunday morning came in three showers, the first at 5.55 a.m. and lasting about a half hour. The second was at 6.53 and lasted 35 minutes, and the third came at 8.22 and lasted until 9.47 a.m.

Lewiston Evening Journal

July 25, 1955

EDITORIAL (in part)

DOG DAYS

These are Dog Days-the sultry, simmering, sunstroked season of the year.

Days, truly, are like dogs, dog may be compared to human beings.

There are good dogs, dogs not-so-good and just onery dogs. We've had the bad dog days.

Today and yesterday were good dog days.

This leads to the subject of water.

Maine has plenty of water, as has Lewiston-Auburn.

The problem is not in water scarcity but in pump capacity to keep the reservoirs at a safe height.

That is why local water departments are asking considerate and cautious use of garden hose.

While on the water subject, the Androscoggin River in this section plagues the nose. The stench is terrific.

Summer heat stresses the importance of more hustle in extracting the pollution from streams.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

August 6 1955

POLLUTION LAW MAY COST ME. NEW PLANT

Mass. Firm Planning \$2,000,000
Dover-Foxcroft Factory

AUGUSTA, Aug.5(AP) State regulations against further pollution of streams are holding up the relocation of a Winchester Mass., leather firm in Dover-Foxcroft, the Maine Development Commission said today.

Beggs and Cobb, described by the MDC as an old established Massachusetts firm, is planning a \$2,000,000 plant which will eventually employ 450 persons.

Civic and business leaders of the area received assurances from Gov. Muskie today that everything possible will be done to clear the way for the new industry.

Executive Director Everett F. Gorton of the MDC said the state Water Improvement Commission has tentatively approved the plant's location providing the waste does not pollute the Piscataquis River beyond set limits and if the company agrees to treat waste products.

The Town of Howland, 35 miles downstream from the proposed plant site draws drinking water from the river. Its residents have raised no objection to the tanning firm's plan for location.

1955

PRESS COMMENTS

SEPTEMBER

The Lewiston Daily Sun

September 6, 1955

RIVER CONTROL
SEASON ENDING

Cuts Pulp Production
to Lowest Since
Court Ruling

Dr. Lawrance Says Extremely
Warm Weather Main Cause;
Summer's Work to End

By Emery W. Stevens

Warmer than average temperatures in the Twin City area during July and August necessitated lowering production of pulp and paper mills on the Androscoggin River to the lowest amount since Dr. Walter A. Lawrance was appointed rivermaster in 1948 to supervise the dumping of sulphite waste, the Bates College chemistry professor declared last night.

Working directly with the paper companies as the result of the Maine Supreme Court upholding a pollution charge against the firms, Dr. Lawrance spends about three months every summer directing the production allowable for the mills and the dumping of sodium nitrate in the water between Gulf Island Dam and Turner Center bridge to counteract the odor.

Because of the extremely warm weather this summer, Dr. Lawrance said he had to order mill production out to the lowest level since assuming his post as rivermaster back in 1948.

BAD HOT SPELL

Control of the river has been good this summer except for a three-week period extended spell of hot weather in July which lasted much longer than anticipated. Despite this control was good enough to prevent any chemical reaction in the water from making the putrid-smelling hydrogen sulfide so noticeable before the controls were established. Because production was not cut quick enough, there was some odor present during the first

of the extreme heat. Part of the odors were due to the heat, the warmth of the water which was lower than usual, and sewage dumped in the water said Dr. Lawrance.

Precipitation recorded at the Union Water Power Co. gatehouse in Lewiston was much lower than the 75-year average for July and the mean temperature for the month was about four degrees warmer than the 71-year average of 68.986. August was also about three degrees warmer than the mean long-term temperature but the precipitation also was higher, which meant there was more oxygen in the river to mix with the sulphite waste.

THREE MONTH'S WORK

Although the court decreed control over the production should be maintained from June 15 to Sept. 15, Dr. Lawrance said he and his crew usually work until about Oct. 1, depending upon the heat and other factors. At the end of the period, it is a day-to-day proposition, he added. "We frequently continue the controls until October 1 as a precautionary measure," he stated, "because the Maine weather is so unpredictable."

A dumping of about 15 tons of sodium nitrate each day into the river this summer has cost the paper companies about \$1,000 daily. To show the deep cuts in production, Dr. Lawrance said sulphite deposits in the river for the week ending June 26 were about 4,417 tons compared to less than 2,000 tons at the end of July.

Lewiston Evening Journal

September 28, 1955

WATER SHORTAGE III

THE THREAT OF POLLUTION

WASHINGTON AP - Pollution of U. S. Rivers and harbors is spreading an evil and potentially dangerous blight upon the American scene.

Countless cities and towns flush their raw, untreated sewage into once beautiful streams. Nearly 11,000 industrial plants spew millions of tons of poisonous, corrosive chemicals into the water we drink and brush our teeth with.

Many cities, such as Los Angeles, have closed down their bathing beaches at times because of pollution. In some areas pollution-stained waters have brought industrial expansion to a virtual halt.

THE 10 WORST

Here, as seen by a panel of sanitation experts who insisted on anonymity, are the nation's "10 most polluted cities"- that is, metropolitan areas where pollution is a major problem:

1. Pittsburgh-Has voted bond issue for treatment works.
2. St. Louis - No sewage treatment.
3. Miami-Putting in big sewage treatment and ocean outfall plant.
4. Kansas City.
5. Omaha-Making progress toward cleanup.
6. Seattle.
7. New York-New Jersey area.
8. Washington, D.C.
9. Charleston, W. Va. (Kanawha Valley area).
10. Youngstown, Ohio (Mahoning River area).

Scientists say even our "second-hand" water-fouled by sewage and recaptured to be used again-is generally safe to drink after going through modern water purification plants. But 31 million Americans live in cities with no water treatment facilities at all.

In the Ohio River watershed alone, 24 cities have no sewage treatment. And in 32 states, appropriations for water pollution control are less than \$50,000 a year.

EFFECTS ON HEALTH

Federal health authorities today are gravely concerned about long-range effects on human health stemming from the vast influx of noxious industrial wastes into the nation's waterways.

Says Mark D. Hollis, chief sanitary engineer of the Health, Education and Welfare Department: was

"The whole problem in sewage treatment in the past, to break down organic waste. Now in the last 15 years we've got 700,000 new synthetic chemicals-plastics and so on-and they have changed the nature of waste.

"What is the effect on human health? We just don't know. We don't get any immediate acute effects, but we must look to the potential long-range dangers.

"What happens is that you put a lot of these chemicals in streams and they react on one another. The result, in effect, is that our streams have become a giant test tube for what is taking place."

As an example, Hollis said that an influx of two tenths parts per million (PPM) of copper into a stream doesn't affect the fish. Nor does 8 PPM of zinc.

"But if you combine as little as one tenth of that amount of copper and zinc in the stream, you kill all the fish," he said.

Right now a red-hot controversy is brewing over detergents. What is happening to our lakes and streams as a result of waste water steeped with the 2½ billion pounds of household synthetic detergents sold to A M E R I C A N housewives annually?

Some health authorities contend that chemicals found in common synthetic household detergents cause frothing and otherwise gum up the works at water treatment and sewage plants, thereby impeding the purification process.

To which the industry replies: "Nonsense!" or, "Prove it."

F. J. Coughlin, manager of Proctor and Gamble Co's research services and chairman of the research advisory subcommittee of the Association of American Soap and Glycerine Producers, said in an interview:

"Household synthetic detergents are no more toxic than ordinary salt. Some feed manufacturers are actually mixing detergents into feed for chickens, cows, pigs and other livestock, and there is some evidence it speeds their growth. At least, there's no harmful effect."

As for assertions that detergents are clogging up water treatment plants, Coughlin said that in a recent test 2,800 pounds of a topselling household detergent were dumped into the sewage treatment plant at San Antonio, Tex., without causing any marked degree of foaming.

Nevertheless, there have been frequent though scattered reports of interference with normal treatment processes in which detergents were named as the suspect.

The American Water Works Assn. Journal says a blanket of detergent laden foam 12 to 24 inches thick covered the 700-foot-wide Ohio River from shore to shore at Wheeling, W. Va., in December 1953 when heavy rains followed a prolonged dry spell. A sample of the foam, submitted to the Pennsylvania Health Department, was found to contain 3,800 parts per million of synthetic detergent.

Tests have shown that as little as 14 PPM of detergents in a stream killed fish. And rats given an 8 ounce mixture of detergents in their diet all died in a week.

Slowly awakening to the menace of foul water, more than 32 states have now enacted antipollution legislation, and many towns and industries have been ordered to clean up. They are beginning to realize that pollution deprives them of badly needed water in recurring times of drought.

NEXT: The Quest for New Water.

PRESS COMMENTS

OCTOBER 1955

The Lewiston Daily Sun

October 6, 1955

COUNCIL CONFIRMS COMMITTEE etc.

On the interstate water pollution panel are Ralph Cutting of Waterville, George Maher of Lewiston and Stanley Brewer of Caribou.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

October 22, 1955

EDITORIAL

(in part)

TWO BITS of GOOD NEWS

In one day, recently, we had two disclosures of great potential benefit to the Maine pulp and paper industry.

From New York came the news that Sterling Drug, Inc., had developed a process of "burning off" waste sulfite liquors produced in making pulp and paper which hitherto have been a chief source of stream pollution, in Maine and elsewhere.

And from nearby Norway, Maine, and Berlin, N. H., we hear that the Brown Company and Wilner Wood Products, Inc., have jointly developed a program of using white pine chips in the making of pulp and paper.

We are well acquainted with the basic facts in the pollution situation. On the Androscoggin, especially, there are large paper mills which manufacture, in addition to pulp and paper, vast amounts of a slushy waste "liquor" that is the residue of the paper process. For years it was dumped in the rivers of Maine, and on our own stream there grew up a nuisance that had to be abated by court action.

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If this waste liquor can now be processed, as Sterling Drug claims, the benefits to the paper mills and the State at large

will be enormous. The liquor is mixed with air in a 30-foot retort or reactor, thereby producing oxidation and consequent heat, estimated at 220,000 pounds of steam per hour. No external source of heat is needed, except to start the process. Sterling Drug claims it is also possible to process the solid residue, while enough steam can be generated from the reactor to operate a pulp mill. And of course steam can be generated into electric power, too.

The wood-barking and chipping operation just perfected by Wilner may solve much of the wood-waste problem in this great wood-producing State. Wilner is now debarking its soft-pine bolts, and chipping the slabs and edgings, which are dispatched to the Brown Company, blown into pulp digesters, and made into pulp or paper. The company is also debarking logs for nearby lumber firms, using the bark for fuel, shipping the logs back, and returning the slabs and edgings to be chipped. So the Brown Company is getting a steady supply of clean fibre for its products.

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There is another aspect to this progressive step. The utilization of wood waste means that fewer trees will be needed to supply the paper mills, and that will speed the general use of selective cutting. Beyond that, some day we may see the trees debarked on the stump with chemicals, and perhaps farther away is a process of using whole trees to manufacture plywood and other wood materials.

Mr. Wilner and Pres. Fair of the Brown Company call this debarking-chipping operation "the most forward commercial move in the conservation of New England forests in many years." We hail their enterprise as the kind of research we need so badly in Maine to create more wealth for its people.

PRESS COMMENTS

NOVEMBER 1955

The New York Times

Sunday, November 6, 1955

MAINE ATTACKING THE

WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM.

STATUTE BANS NEW SOURCES OF
CONTAMINATION ALONG 12 RIVERS
AND TRIBUTARIES.

Special to the New York Times.

PORTLAND, Me., Nov. 5-- This state has joined energetically in the drive against national water pollution.

The Legislature has put a ban on all new sources of pollution along twelve rivers and their tributaries. The law became effective Sept. 1. It carries penalties of \$25 to \$200. A state Water Improvement Commission of nine members is empowered to carry out the provisions of the law.

New England according to the United States Public Health Service, has one of the greatest pollution problems of any area in the country. This is largely because of its historic dependence on rivers for power. Industrial towns sprang up around factories on river banks. The waste from the factories and the sewage from the towns went into the rivers.

Maine began taking steps to protect its waters in 1945. As the largest state in New England in land area, it has the problem of controlling or cleaning up pollution along 30,000 lineal miles of waterways, exclusive of its ocean front.

PROGRESS OF CAMPAIGN

Only about 5 per cent of the water is seriously polluted, according to B. Morton Havey, executive director of the Associated Industries of Maine.

"We have managed to have around 16,000 miles classified by the Legislature in the last four years," he says. "Once classification is completed the state will be in position to consolidate its gains."

Under Maine law waterways are classified A to D, according to the degree of pollution.

Those in Class A have water fit for drinking and bathing, after disinfection. Those in Class D can be used for wastes, providing no nuisance conditions are created.

The Androscoggin River is probably Maine's most polluted stream. The Brown Company, the International Paper Company

and the Oxford Paper Company have plants on its banks. All these plants manufacture sulphite pulp. Sulphite waste entered the river.

Fifteen years ago, after protests from the cities of Lewiston and Auburn, many miles downstream, the three companies agreed to a court decree stipulating how much sulphite pulp they might produce between June 15 and Sept. 15, a period of high temperatures and low water.

Dr. Walter Lawrance, head of the Chemistry Department at Bates College, was appointed administrator of the decree. He maintains a daily check on river conditions. His word is law with the mills in regulation of how much waste they may dump into the river at a given time.

GRANTS AID RESEARCH

All the major pulp and paper companies in Maine are members of the National Council for Stream Improvement. T. F. Spear, vice president of the Oxford Paper Company is state chairman. The council has made grants to Bates and the University of Maine for research on how to reduce or stop stream pollution.

Since World War II the Maine pulp and paper industry has spent \$100,000,000 on modernization. Thus far, however, it has been unable to find any economical way to reduce stream pollution and keep up with competition from other areas.

J. Elliot Hale, superintendent of the Kennebec Water District, puts stress on other sources of pollution. He is former chairman of the State Water Improvement Commission. He notes that "municipalities face the problem of raising money to rebuild or relocate sewage systems."

"There is a limit as to how much a city or town can spend on these improvements and still stay solvent," he adds.

The Maine Municipal Association, composed of city and town officials, was urged at its annual convention here this week to work for more interest in local hearings on stream classification. A spokesman for the Water Improvement Commission said that if a community did not act, hearings might result in orders for anti-pollution measures that might force industries to move.

PRESS COMMENTS

Lewiston Daily Sun

November 22, 1955

SAY NEW PROCESS PROMISES TO
END POLLUTION, PRODUCE PROFIT

A New York drug company has announced a discovery, that promises to help overcome three enemies of American industry—stream pollution, high power costs and waste disposal.

An additional dividend of the new Zimmerman process, according to the Sterling Drug Co., is its ability to recover inorganic chemicals for reuse.

Of "utmost" significance is that the new process makes it economically possible for industry to solve these costly business and social headaches and in many instances produce a profit, said the drug firm.

The people of Androscoggin county are long familiar with the pollution problem. The gravity of the problem on a national scale is pointed out by the U.S. Health Service which suggests that 14 billion dollars are needed for new and rebuilt sewage works and 10 billion for industrial waste facilities.

The Zimmerman process takes aqueous waste containing organic matter and, by flameless combustion, "burns" it in the presence of oxygen to produce power—steam or electricity.

Commenting on the new process, Sterling's board chairman James Hill Jr., said:

"Sterling is satisfied that its process will, under any circumstances and wherever installed, effectively and economically eliminate stream pollution caused by organic waste. Elimination of stream pollution now becomes economically attractive and the announced process achieves additional savings to industry by permitting the recovery, and re-use, of whatever inorganic chemicals the waste may contain."

The first American company to adopt the process is Hammermill Paper Co., which, at its Erie, Pa., plant in 1954 eliminated, to the extent of the capacity of the process plant, stream pollution caused by organic waste in spent pulp liquors. While no attempt was made to convert organic waste into power at the Hammermill plant, the process recovered between 92% and 96% of the valuable inorganic chemicals in the waste, the drug firm said.